Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Meets With Vietnamese Agriculture Minister

FL2303024293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Last night, President Fidel Castro met with Nguyen Cong Tan, the Vietnamese minister of agriculture and the food industry. In a news conference after the meeting, Cong Tan said that the cordial, friendly meeting with Fidel has been the most significant part of his visit to Cuba.

Cong Tan said: I was honored to meet Fidel. He added that the meeting lasted for over two hours, during which he informed Fidel of Vietnam's economic situation and expressed his willingness to expand cooperation with Cuba. Cong Tan stressed: We also expressed to Fidel that Cuba has great possibilities for developing its economy, and we reiterated our solidarity with Cuba.

Carlos Lage, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State; and Arturo Guzman, the minister president of the State Committee for Prices, also participated in the meeting. In Havana, the Vietnamese delegation signed three bilateral trade agreements.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Vietnamese Delegation

FL2303011393 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The talks in Havana between Cuba and Vietnam, as part of the 13th working session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, concluded on 22 March with the signing of a bilateral cooperation accord. The Vietnamese delegation was headed by Nguyen Cong Tan, the Vietnamese minister of agriculture and the food industry. The Cuban delegation was headed by Arturo Guzman, the president of the State Committee for Prices.

Brazilian Businessmen Study Joint Venture Prospects

FL2203194793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Delegations from Brazil and Cuba have begun important negotiations in Havana sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries. Starting this morning, businessmen from Brazil and Cuba are studying eleven industrial investment projects which, if approved, will be executed by companies from the two countries. The Brazilian trade delegation is headed by (Milton Peretti Ramos), the vice president of the Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He explained for this news program that this is the largest and most important Brazilian trade delegation to travel to Cuba for this purpose. It is made up of 22 businessmen from about 40 companies.

In the opening session, Comrade Porfirio Mederos, the acting president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, stressed that in spite of some limitations which do not promote an immediate and sudden surge of trade with Brazil, in the near term we must find—and that is why we are here, he stated—the ways to strengthen initiatives to solve these problems and broaden the channels through which normal bilateral trade can take place.

[Begin Mederos recording] We are studying the opportunities for trade which are arising for Brazilian [words indistinct] in Cuba, and we are also studying the entire legislative effort the country, the Cuban Revolution, and the legislature have made to create much more favorable conditions and guarantees for businessmen and for the entry of foreign capital and joint investments with Cuba. We have [words indistinct] the real will of our country to level the barriers of legislative and procedural problems, which will promote this important channel of trade. Moreover, I think there is a broad range of products in which Brazilian businessmen can put their [words indistinct] (?pharmaceuticals) and some important areas of our activities and economy. [end recording]

The Brazilian companies are considering agreements in civil engineering, the food industry, equipment manufacture, and other areas, while for Cuba representatives from Intur [National Institute for Tourism], Sime [Steelworking Industry], the Cuban National Bank, the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, the Ministry of the Food Industry, and other entities of great importance to our economy are attending for the same purpose.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 17 - 22 Mar

FL2303024793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 17 March and 22 March.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 17 March reports that the first 23 buses of a total of 50 donated by the Workers Committees of Barcelona, Spain, were delivered to Havana City Transportation Authorities on 16 March. The remaining 27 buses are to arrive in Cuba in early April. The Cuban merchant ship Jose Antonio Echeverria, which will be bringing the second shipment, will also be bringing motors, gearboxes, alternators, and other spare parts.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 17 March reports that a basic production enterprise in San Antonio del Sur Municipality, Guantanamo Province, has implemented a technological organizational and payment system under which, every six months, workers are paid a bonus when the farm's production quota per caballeria has been exceeded. The system is yielding "good results."

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 18 March reports that a donation of school supplies from Vietnam has arrived in Santiago de Cuba. German youths working in the care

of citrus and medicinal plants at the "Enrique Troncoso" enterprise have donated parts and tools for bicycle repairs at the 11 workshops in Pinar del Rio Municipality. India's ambassador in Havana has donated books on India to the Center for Asian and Oceanic Studies.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 18 March reports that approximately 80 percent of the medicines used to treat livestock in Camaguey Province are being produced in the province, using mostly medicinal plants. Four laboratories—in Vertientes, Guaimaro, Sibanicu and Camaguey—are to open on 10 March. A new production line for antiparasitics to treat sheep and goats has been opened, saving the nation considerable hard currency.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 19 March reports that in Pinar del Rio Province, most of the 700,200 poles [cujes] of tobacco affected by the storm will be used for national consumption and leaf export. "Only some 4,700 of those in the tobacco sheds will be unrecoverable, and between 30 and 40 percent of the poles in the Virginia tobacco chambers."

Radio Reloj at 1600 GMT on 20 March reports that Matanzas Province has partially restored production to nine sugar mills where machinery had been halted because of rain and humidity.

Reloj also reports that Villa Clara has picked more than 133,400 quintals of potatoes, which is one third the expected yield from the harvest. Of this amount, 70,000 quintals will be distributed to other provinces, with the remainder stored for distribution throughout the year.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 21 March report the planned mobilization of 20,000 workers in Havana Province to harvest crops damaged by the storm. Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0100 GMT on 22 March add that approximately 1 million quintals of plantains were lost in the province.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 1800 GMT on 21 March report that the closure for repairs of the Comodoro, Riviera, Duvil, and Copacabana Hotels in Havana City Province cost $45,000 a day in lost revenues. Workers of the Caribbean Construction Enterprise Union have restored the Copacabana; the Riviera is still closed for storm damage repairs.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 22 March reports that the creation of self-sufficiency farms in 10 Havana Province municipalities, to guarantee delivery of miscellaneous crops and reduce fuel consumption, will have no effect on the miscellaneous crops enterprises in the areas selected for this program.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 22 March reports that food industry researchers are seeking alternatives to compensate for the loss of 43,000 tons of meat, traditionally imported, worth $100 million. They are exploring the use of soy products, extraction of protein from bones, and production of different types of sausages, such as hot dogs made from tripe.

The same broadcast notes that a Camaguey Province asphalt factory innovator, as a result of a study of impurities found and fuel consumed in making paving materials, has succeeded in prolonging the useful life of pavement. The factory now uses 604,000 liters of fuel oil per year, or 37 percent of its previous consumption. Workers in San Antonio del Sur Municipality, Guantanamo Province, harvested 120,000 quintals of tubers and vegetables in the first 70 days of this year.

Cuba Vision at 0100 on 23 March reports that Cuba-9 Research and Production Center has developed and begun producing a new type of multi-layer recycled paper bags for hydrated lime, a product essential for the sugar industry. The Sugar Ministry has requested paper to produce 4 million paper bags. This will save almost $700,000 in hard currency.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Leaders Begin Intersessional Meeting

FL2203192893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1717 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 22, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government faced a 12-item agenda when they began a two-day informal summit at the Fort Young Hotel here Monday [22 March].

The so-called intersessional conference, taking place between the last and the next annual Caricom summit in July, opened amidst expressions of concern about the impact global changes will have on the regional integration movement.

Dominica Prime Minister Dame Eugenia Charles, in welcoming remarks, hoped for a successful summit.

"Successfully does not mean going through the agenda on time, but really coming to solutions which will be of use to all of us in the area and benefit all of us who live in this area," she said.

The agenda issues range from the restructuring of the Guyana-based Caricom Secretariat to the future of the region's banana industry, an issue of vital interest to the banana-dependent Windward Islands, of which Dominica is part.

The leaders also heard at the opening session that Puerto Rico intends to continue playing a meaningful role in the socioeconomic development of the Caricom region.

Baltasar del Rio, secretary of state in the new Puerto Rican Government that was elected late last year, also said he understood the concerns of Caricom leaders about the future of the 936 Programme, a major source of development finance for projects in the Caricom region.

These concerns arose after the United States Congress announced plans to review the corporate tax-related programme.

"The members of the Caribbean Community can rest assured that our commitment to promoting economic growth in the Caribbean Basin goes beyond the existence of a U.S. tax provision or Puerto Rico's political status and will remain as strong as ever," Del Rio said.

Del Rio said the new Puerto Rican administration was reviewing the 936 Programme in the context of the introduction of its plans for tourism development on the island.

"We are currently analyzing the mechanisms by which to implement our tourism development plans and the role of 936 funds in the financing of hotel projects in the Caribbean Basin has become a part of that analysis," he said.

"However, we plan to establish very shortly the circumstances and criteria under which 936 funds may be used to finance tourism projects in the Caribbean Basin...."

Del Rio said Caribbean countries should be aware that the new administration in San Juan will adopt its position on Caribbean affairs based on the fact that Puerto Rico is still a part of the United States.

"The membership of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] may be at odds with that reality and we are currently assessing that aspect but it has not been necessary for Puerto Rico to be a member of the CDB in order to play an active role in the economic growth of the region," he said.

Del Rio stressed Puerto Rico's interest in the Caricom region "derives squarely from (its) geographic location".

Dominican Republic

Foreign Ministry Investigates False Passports

FL2203194293 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Dominican diplomatic and official passports are being falsified in the country. Vice Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral said, regarding this situation, that the Foreign Ministry Secretariat is making the appropriate investigations to take the necessary measures.

Herrera Cabral said that measures have been taken to correct this anomaly. He said he had spoken with President Joaquin Balaquer and explained the situation to him, because this situation threatens the credibility of Dominican diplomatic passports as a special document. Herrera Cabral did not reveal the measures that are being taken to correct the problem with diplomatic passports.

Haiti

U.S. Special Envoy Holds News Conference on Departure

FL2203165993 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Jeansoi Joseph on news conference by U.S. special envoy Lawrence Pezzulo in Port-au-Prince on 20 March; italicized passages in English —recorded]

[Text] Lawrence Pezzullo, special envoy of the U.S. Government, left the country on 20 March after a 2-day visit. Mr. Pezzullo, who was accompanied by Major General John Sheehan, met with the press before he left. The special envoy, however, did not reveal what was discussed during his talks with the Haitian authorities. He said, however, that he was satisfied with the meetings and believed important steps would be taken in the coming days to resolve the crisis. The following is a report by Jeansoi Joseph on the news conference.

[Begin recording] [Joseph] Lawrence Pezzullo stated that the meetings he held will yield many results. During a 2-day visit in Haiti, U.S. Government special envoy Lawrence Pezzulo met with the Army commander in chief, General Raoul Cedras; the prime minister of the Villa d'Accueil government, Marc Louis Bazin; the [pro-Aristide] presidential commission; and the ecclesiastical sectors. Pezzullo, a career diplomat, entered Haiti on 18 March within the scope of the solution being sought for the Haitian crisis. Before he left the country on 20 March, Pezzullo held a news conference at the diplomatic lounge of the [International] Airport to comment on the results of his meetings. Unfortunately, Pezzullo did not go into detail. He said only that his meetings will yield fruits very soon. The reason for my coming to Haiti, [he said], is the progress of the negotiations; but they are under the management of the UN and OAS special envoy, Dante Caputo.

When asked whether he came with a message from the U.S. Government saying that it supports the Caputo mission within the scope of the solution, Pezzullo answered:

[Pezzullo] *Exactly.*

[Joseph] That is right, and I will add just one word: very, very soon. Lawrence Pezzullo said that the 16 March meeting between President Aristide and President Bill Clinton (?ended with) many promises. The U.S. Government will allow an international assistance program assessed at $1 billion. Concerning the direct and clear message that President Bill Clinton sent to the Haitian Army, special envoy Lawrence Pezzullo said:

[Pezzullo] *I am not going to get into....*[break in transmission]

[Joseph] I will not go into details. What is going to be said in the dialogues here in Haiti must not be disclosed.

You must understand that when you are going to talk to someone you must respect the confidence that exists between you and him. [end recording]

During this news conference, Pezzullo was accompanied by the new special charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, Charles Redman. It should be pointed out that Maj. Gen. John Sheehan was not at the conference table.

Caputo Due To Arrive in Port-au-Prince 22 Mar

FL2203171493 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Dante Caputo, the UN/OAS mediator for the Haitian crisis, will enter Port-au-Prince on the afternoon of 22 March. He will meet with various sectors in the country to seek a solution to the country's crisis. Caputo said: I will return to Haiti to resume negotiations, to promote the restoration of democracy in the country, to establish a precise timetable, and to jointly set up procedures for the choice of a new prime minister with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Negotiations Between Senate Blocs Stall

FL2303011093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Negotiations are at standstill in the Senate of the Republic. The senators of the two political blocs, who began discussing the institution's crisis more than 15 days ago, are far from reaching an agreement. The attitude adopted by some senators during the past few days and the statements made during the talks, indicate that the negotiations lean toward failure. Ansy Rose Resignac filed a report:

[Begin Resignac recording] After more than two weeks of the most difficult negotiations, the senators of the two political blocs are just beating around the bush. Officially optimistic about a solution to the crisis in the Senate of the Republic, the negotiators have not yet announced any progress in their discussions. To the contrary, it is reported that the representatives of both parties showed a certain inflexibility regarding the question of the 18 January partial legislative elections, which constitute a stumbling block in these talks. Results of the talks were approved by the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, while the constitutionalist bloc rejected them. The failure of the negotiations is becoming increasingly likely, all the more since the positions of the two blocs are focused day after day.

The position of the progovernment group was clear on Tuesday, 16 March. Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton and his group attempted to hold a session in which the 18 January electees were to participate while talks deciding their fate continued. The opponents on the other side expressed indignation. To allow these foreign bodies to express themselves at the Senate podium just like a regularly elected senator is to debase the premises of the institution, stated Jacque Rony Mondestin, referring to the winners of the 18 January elections.

In addition to the question of the elections, other points of difference exist between the two blocs, especially the matter of the two offices and the actions taken by each: the motion of censure against the current government; the question of a quorum of 13 or 14 senators. In any case, according to a parliamentarian requesting anonymity, the Senate opposition would be ready to make some compromises if the alliance would accept the rejection of the elections.

However, the strategy of the senators of the Thomas Eddy Dupiton camp, could be much more surprising, says the same source. The senators close to the executive power would resign as a bloc if the results of the 18 January elections are rejected. All things considered, pessimism threatens the future of the Senate even if the parliamentarians could unanimously agree that a solution to the national crisis could cure the abscess and weariness ravaging the Haitian institutions. [end recording]

Pro-Aristide Movement Begins With Slogans in Gonaives

FL2303010793 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Leaflets and graffiti are appearing in Gonaives these days. Slogans demanding the return of the 16 December 1990 government can be seen in the streets and on the walls in Gonaives. Here are details by our correspondent [Johnson Legrand].

[Begin Legrand recording] Operation Offender Forgets, Offended Remembers [Operasyon Bay Kou Bliye, Pote Mak Sonje] began in Gonaives on the night of 20 to 21 March. On several walls throughout the city, we noted the following slogans: Whether you want it or not, macoutes, we demand the unconditional return of Titide [Jean-Bertrand Aristide]. Most of these slogans request the departure of the de facto prime minister, Marc Louis Bazin, as head of the government. Today, 22 March, Gonaives was full of leaflets. We noted in these leaflets pictures of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and slogans such as: We are going to demonstrate for Titide's return; The UN and the OAS have come to protect the criminals; and, all sectors of the city, rise up so we can uproot the criminals.

Since the meeting between Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 16 March, the people in Gonaives have been awaiting the departure of the de facto prime minister, Marc Louis Bazin. Johnson Legrand for Tropic FM. [end recording]

Over 100 UN/OAS Observers in Country

FL2203171293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Additional international observers arrived on 21 March in the framework of the UN/OAS civilian mission. This group of 18 observers comes from OAS country members. The mission now has over 100 members in Haiti. It should be noted that the deployment of those international observers in the major cities of the country has already begun. Let us point out that the presence of this mission does not have unanimous support among Haitians.

Trinidad and Tobago

Editorial Says Antidrug Efforts Having Positive Effect

FL2203173093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1443 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 22, CANA—Following is the text of the editorial in Monday's DAILY EXPRESS newspaper:

The joke in town is that addicts are getting cleaner and fatter. Two effects of cocaine addiction are loss of interest in personal hygiene and eating. With the drug short on the streets, addicts are back to bathing and eating, and the result, say the wags, is noticeable. As Prime Minister Patrick Manning has noted, the current war on drugs is having an effect on the market. With both Aldwyn King and Dole Chadee apparently on the run, other drug thugs are lying low and the distribution chain is not as strong as it once was.

But neither the prime minister nor the country can be sanguine enough to believe that the war has been won. Warrants are out for them, but neither King nor Chadee has been caught and they do not constitute the cocaine industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

In fact, there have been persistent reports about the involvements of high-profile people in the trade, the so-called "barons" who are the ultimate source of much of the murder and mayhem we have seen over the last few years. Government has to nail these people if it is to make a permanent dent in the drug trade.

Moreover, the profits from cocaine are so enormous that there will always be people willing to fill any vacuum left by the arrest and conviction of the known drug dealers. Because of these very profits, too, those drug dealers who are lying low are merely biding time until the heat dies down and they begin re-supplying the streets again.

Well, the heat simply cannot be allowed to die down and the state and the citizens must be eternally vigilant [words indistinct] scourge that is cocaine is to be destroyed. It is not simply that the trade is destroying lives. It has the potential to destroy our civilisation as we know it by destroying the forces of law and order and everything else that flows from it. And then it is "back to the bush," in truth, to use V.S. Naipul's graphic phrase.

For at least a decade, drug thugs in Trinidad and Tobago have had it their way. What arrests there have been have involved low-level, low-life "pushers" on the block or addicts themselves, feeding their sickness in the alleyways of the inner city. But now the "big men" have been put on notice by National Security Minister Russell Huggins, and there is a sense of panic among some of their ranks.

Supply, however, is only one side of the coin. The other is demand and there are signs that the anti-drug campaign has been having results. Certainly drugs (including marijuana) do not have the romantic appeal for today's youth as it had in the 60's when a generation almost came to be persuaded that the way out of our troubles was through drug-induced love and peace. "Turn on and tune in," drug guru Timothy Leary advised, a philosphy whose absurdity manifested itself in thousands of wrecked lives and billions of dollars going up in smoke.

Trinidad and Tobago is a small place and it may well be that we have a better chance than the bigger countries of controlling the drug situation here. Government has shown that it has the will, the drug thugs are off balance and there are plans to weed out corrupt policemen who have long forsaken their oath to protect and serve. There is an opening now which we must seize. If we don't, we may never get it again.

Mexico City Plebiscite Held, Low Turnout Noted

PA2203211593 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Martin Carmona Torres in Mexico City—recorded]

[Excerpts] On 21 March, the plebiscite on the democratization of Mexico City's federal district was held. There was a low voter turnout. It is estimated that about 300,000 Mexico City residents participated in the plebiscite. This number is equivalent to a 93.8 percent abstention when based on the figures of the 1991 electoral turnout. The plebiscite, which was called by [words indistinct] of the federal district was poorly organized.

Over 30 percent of the 2,987 voting booths were never opened. A similar percentage of ballot boxes were relocated at the last minute on the morning of 21 March. Voters mainly went to the ballot boxes to request information on what to do. [passage omitted]

Voter turnout varied according to voting location. Voting was constant in very busy places such as metro stations, large shopping malls, and in parks because the organizers invited passers by to vote. Voter turnout was almost nil in booths located in less busy areas. [passage omitted]

According to various polls, voters chose to identify themselves with voter identification cards, driver's licenses, or other personal documents. Some Mexico City residents voted without identification. The confusion was obvious. [passage omitted]

On 1 March, the Pearson Research Agency reported that the average voter turnout at busier booths was about 220, while in less busy booths, the average was fewer than 60. A satisfactory average would be a turnout of about 120 voters per booth, which means that about 300,000 voters participated in this plebiscite.

According to Pearson polls, the results show that about 5 percent of Mexico City residents over 18 years of age want to elect their governor and want Mexico City to have its own legislature. Of Mexico City residents, 4 percent want Mexico City to become the 32d state.

Only 6.2 percent of Mexico City residents participated in the plebiscite. Polls conducted in advance reported the plebiscite's trend. They showed that the questions on the ballots were the ones that elicited the most favorable answers. According to Pearson, the major difference stemmed from the question of whether or not the status of Mexico City should be changed from a capital city to a state of the federation. In four polls conducted in advance of the plebiscite, a clear consensus opposed changing Mexico City's status. The Pearson polls showed more men than women participated in the plebiscite. Most were over 40, with a college degree, and above the lower income brackets. The polls also revealed that those who voted yes in the plebiscite are concerned about the quality of public services in Mexico City.

El Salvador

Former FMLN General Command Accepts Joint Responsibility

PA2303041393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Valmore Parada]

[Text] The former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command supported the former People's Revolutionary Army [ERP]—one of the five organizations making up the FMLN—by accepting joint responsibility for the actions reported by the Truth Commission. The Commission, which investigated the most serious crimes committed in the eighties and which greatly unsettled Salvadoran society, reported that 15 former FMLN rebels, including former commander Joaquin Villalobos, had violated human rights. The report also stated that at least 40 military officers, including the heads of the Defense Ministry, were responsible for human rights violations. The FMLN accepts responsibility and the recommendations of the Truth Commission, Norma Guevara stated as she read a joint communique issued by the representatives of the five organizations in the former guerrilla organization.

[Begin Guevara recording] Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Leonel Gonzalez, Shafik Jorge Handel Simon, Francisco Jovel, Roberto Roca, Eduardo Sancho, German Cienfuegos, and Joaquin Villalobos Atilio—the five members of the former FMLN general command—have unanimously expressed their willingness to accept responsibility for the events reported by the Truth Commission.

The FMLN political commission supports the firm and exemplary decision of the comrades, who were General Command members during the war, who have bravely assumed their responsibilities before the Truth Commission. The comrades now accept, before the Salvadoran people, their quota of responsibility for the events that took place during the armed conflict.

The responsibility cannot be assigned only to the ERP, any other FMLN organization, or to a group of comrades because the FMLN assumes responsibility for its actions as a bloc. The Truth Commission report also indicated that all our organizations cooperated to further its work.

We reiterate our willingness to assume and comply with all the Truth Commission recommendations in regard to the FMLN. We understand that our acceptance demands that all the people mentioned in the report accept their responsibilities and that all the Truth Commission recommendations be met.

We reiterate that the report and its recommendations will be an important contribution to the country's democratization, demilitarization, the establishment of a state of rights, and, consequently, the consolidation of peace, if they are expediently implemented.

The FMLN political commission rejects the hasty manner with which the Nationalist Republican Alliance, and the Authentic Christian Movement parties approved an amnesty law that did not have national consensus. We call on all Salvadorans to fight for compliance with the Truth Commission recommendations. We call the international community to support this effort. [end recording]

The former commanders warned that international aid to El Salvador could be jeopardized if the Truth Commission recommendations were not met. Among other recommendations, the Truth Commission requested that the Supreme Court magistrates, including its president Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, be removed.

Shafik Handal on FMLN Rejection of Amnesty Law

PA2303011993 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Daisy Villalobos]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 22 March rejected the Legislative Assembly clumsy approval of the General Amnesty Law for all those mentioned in the Truth Commission report. Jorge Shafik Handal, the general coordinator of the National Directorate of the FMLN political party, stated this amnesty demonstrates partiality and an impending attempt to prevent the Truth Commission's recommendations from being carried out.

[Begin Handal recording] That is a desire to... [pauses] it is a demonstration of complete partiality. What does amnesty mean in the end? It means protection. For the rest of the nation, it means an appeal for the tens of thousands of affected families to forget. For those mentioned, it means protection. It is a clear demonstration of partiality on their part. The Legislative Assembly decision does not represent a national agreement. It is, however, an attempt to prevent the recommendations from being carried out. We have expressed our conviction that the Truth Commission's recommendations will be followed. We have made a commitment to fight until the recommendations are implemented. Not only the Salvadoran people, but the world is committed to this cause. The UN Security Council recently spoke out in full support of the commission report. [end recording]

According to Shafik Handal, amnesty has stripped the people of an opportunity to prove that the justice system has the capability to handle the issue, as the crimes described in the report can be prosecuted administratively by the state. The FMLN general coordinator said the amnesty cannot impede the fulfillment of the Truth Commission's recommendations, although this would seem to be the political intention.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] Technically and legally speaking, they cannot impede the fulfillment of the commission's recommendations. These are two very different issues. Technically and legally speaking,

amnesty will only serve to hamper any legal action and that is all. Nevertheless, the political intention is to have the amnesty represent a forgive and forget policy and to wipe the slate clean, as some would say. Our position is that the recommendations must be fulfilled because there is a commitment and, furthermore, because they formally became part of the agreements signed in Chapultepec. Paragraph 10 of the Truth Commission agreement says that the parties hereby commit themselves to carry out the commission's recommendation. Hence, the treatment given to these recommendations should be the same as that given to the rest of the Chapultepec Agreements. This means the UN, the international community, and the four supporting countries must verify compliance. The UN Security Council must also assume its authority on this issue. This was agreed on in April 1991 when we signed the agreement, which we did trustingly.

Oscar Santamaria said in a television interview that we had agreed not to reform the Judicial Branch. He said the FMLN had agreed with that stance. I would like to take this opportunity to deny this completely. We never agreed to that. What actually happened was quite different. We were demanding that the Supreme Court of Justice elect its magistrates in accordance with the new established system. They rejected this. We were pressed into approving the constitutional reforms. There were only a few hours remaining before the deadline for reforming the Constitution. We had to find a balance of sorts, so we said: If there is no agreement on this issue, we will reject all the reforms. There were scarcely hours left, so what we did was agree to the reforms excluding that specific issue. We never agreed to reform the Judicial Branch. We are pleased the Truth Commission, in studying the Judicial Branch and the Supreme Court, recommends the application of this election system. The commission has asked the magistrates to resign; to resign in favor of the process and, in so doing, benefit the nation. The president of the Supreme Court, however, responded by saying that only God could remove him. Indeed, this was a highly pretentious statement. [end recording]

In a press conference with other members of the FMLN Political Commission, Handal indicated that the political cost that the government will pay for approving the General Amnesty Law will be severe, both nationally and internationally. He added the FMLN will implement political measures to ensure full compliance with the Truth Commission's recommendations. He pointed out there is pressure from the international community to comply with the Truth Commission's recommendations.

Compliance With Commission Recommendations Demanded

PA2303004193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The National Revolutionary Movement's, MNR, Executive Committee demanded that the government comply with the Truth Commission's recommendations, especially regarding the murder of their leader Hector Oqueli Colindres. In this respect, the MNR believes the Salvadoran Government should coordinate efforts with the Guatemalan Government to initiate a serious and systematic investigation of the Oqueli case, as the Truth Commission has stated it is their obligation to do so. MNR Secretary General Victor Valle also criticized the Legislative Branch approval of the General Amnesty Law on 20 March and said it will deteriorate the process to consolidate peace in the country.

[Begin Valle recording] We are deeply concerned because the approval of the General Amnesty Law has caused a great deal of controversy. What was conceived as an instrument to further reconciliation, now threatens to become an excuse for the renewal of an undesirable political confrontation that will lead to the country's polarization.

We believe a general amnesty is appropriate, but it has to be based on agreements reached at the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace and at the Legislative Assembly.

We believe that the Legislative Assembly took the first step on a path that will lead to the deterioration of the consolidation of peace with the hasty approval of the general amnesty law by the government party and its allies, the abstention of the Christian Democratic Party bloc members, and the opposition of the left-wing deputies, as it disregarded the method of reaching a consensus to solve the country's big problems.

We believe the Truth Commission's recommendations should be followed without haggling, hastiness, or the use of blackmail to further the process of social pedagogy [pedagogia social]. In our opinion, the work of the Truth Commission does not end with the presentation of the report. It is not a technocratic job. It is, I repeat, a process of social pedagogy. It requires deep reflection by all Salvadorans to enable us to cure the wounds in our society, impede the reappearance of the armed conflict, and allow us to attain peace of spirit. All this will lead to an effective reconciliation; one that will generate development in El Salvador.

We believe it is very important to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Forum, recommended by the Truth Commission, so we can start on the road to national reconciliation in the framework of a comprehensive patriotic agreement.

In regard to a matter of our particular interest, the MNR considers that the Truth Commission's conclusions regarding Hector Oqueli's murder obliges the Salvadoran and Guatemalan Governments to make a serious and systematic investigation. In this respect, the Truth Commission's report states:

The Truth Commission prompts both governments to do separately what is necessary to clarify the crime and, with the international organizations that have expressed

their willingness to support them in the clarification of this tragic event, present evidence to the international community that will relate the events without adversely affecting the corresponding future legal actions. [end recording]

Commentary Terms Approval of Amnesty Law 'Mistake'

PA2203223393 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The approval of the amnesty law by deputies from the Nationalist Republican Alliance, the Authentic Christian Movement, and the National Conciliation Party was a big mistake for the right wing, and will not contribute to reconciliation or to reaching agreements in El Salvador. This hasty forgive and forget decree is the legal and institutional recognition that the state and its representatives committed dantesque violations of the people's human rights. The state has tried to wash its hands, it forgives itself, and has been unable to face the truth and justice the state itself is vowed to uphold.

This, however, is not all. All the right-wing deputies boasted about defending the Constitution regarding the work of the Truth Commission. It is those right-wing deputies who have violated several articles of the nation's charter. A specific example is the fact that the 43 deputies have violated Article 244 of the Constitution, which states that government employees cannot receive a pardon, even after the conclusion of the administration during which the crime took place. Surely the county did not need an international commission to identify and recognize that the death squads originated with the current ruling party. Since its founding, the party has been an armed party; a paramilitary and obscure party. The Truth Commission, its report, and its recommendations were a response to a request by the government of Alfredo Cristiani. They are, in no way, an outside imposition that would violate our sovereign.

Nevertheless, the deputies seem to believe the Salvadorans all agree with a forgive and forget policy, for which they were never consulted. These deputies do not have the right or the moral integrity to acquit those who were accused of committing a crime. The 43 deputies will surely be held responsible for the extra delay and the additional cost to the national reconciliation process it will surely cause, as the investigation into the death squads continues.

Guatemala

Government-Guerrilla Talks Conclude With Partial Agreement

PA2003224093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (EFE)— On 20 March, the Guatemalan Government and guerrilla groups concluded 11 days of negotiations in Mexico City with partial agreements. The agreements state the United States and Norway will support the peace process in that Central American country—the only one still at war in the region.

The two countries, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Spain will comprise the "Honor Witnesses" and "Group of Friends," to guarantee compliance with future agreements reached during the peace process, it was stated by Guatemalan Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, dialogue conciliator and mediator, during a news conference.

The Honor Witnesses and Group of Friends will begin their functions once the parties have a protocol on the establishment of deadlines for a peace process and an overall agreement on human rights.

The government and Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) negotiators met behind closed doors at the Hotel del Prado starting on 10 March, although they have been doing it intermittently since April 1991 in Mexico City. They began a dialogue in March 1990 in Norway.

Monsignor Quezada, appointed dialogue mediator by the URNG and the Guatemalan Government, said the parties agreed to meet again on 26 March in the Mexican capital. Msgr. Quezada's news conference was attended by the government and URNG delegations, as well as Jean Arnault, UN observer for the dialogue.

The Honor Witnesses' and Groups of Friends' functions include guaranteeing compliance with the agreements reached by the guerrilla groups and the government, and supporting the conciliator's actions. Msgr. Quezada said all the mentioned countries will comprise the Honor Witnesses and Group of Friends. Referring to the inclusion of the United States in the two groups, Msgr. Quezada said he is confident a peace agreement will be reached in Guatemala "before U.S. President Bill Clinton completes his first year in office (in January 1994).

On 17 March the negotiations were divided into two working tables to try to reach an overall agreement on human rights and agree on an agenda to accelerate the dialogue by fixing deadlines for the peace process and the cease-fire. "The scheduling (establishing deadlines) has been the main obstacle," said Msgr. Quezada. The bishop said the parts have presented documents that establish deadlines for the peace process, "which do not reach 1994," and that he was optimistic regarding the vitalization of the peace process. He added they intend to attain a cease-fire without it meaning a "surrender" by the guerrillas.

Msgr. Quezada said there were partial advances in the formation of a truth or past commission, in drafting a commitment to speed up the peace process, and in the participation of the Guatemalan civilian population in the peace talks. To describe how difficult this round of talks was, Msgr. Quezada said: "At times, I thought the light at the end of the tunnel was fading."

Guatemala is currently the only Central American country at war following the signing of a peace agreement between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas in January of 1992 in the Mexican capital. In over 30 years, the Guatemalan civil war has caused at least 150,000 deaths and the displacement of 1 million persons.

On 10 March, the URNG and the Guatemalan Government agreed for the first time that the peace process should be completed in a "prudent period of time" and, therefore, decided to speed up the process by deliberating through new mechanisms.

Both parties then agreed to discuss three basic topics (regarding the causes of the conflict) and one operational topic (regarding the initiatives that may lead to the end of the confrontation).

'Substantial Progress' in Peace Talks Reported

PA2303042393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Mar 93 p2

[Report by Karl Yvan Arevalo V.]

[Text] Substantial progress in the peace negotiations between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) became evident on 20 March after the two delegations concluded 11 days of talks in Mexico City.

On the afternoon of 20 March, mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno arrived in the country accompanied by members of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) and the official delegation for peace headed by Manuel Conde Orellana.

Upon his arrival at La Aurora International Airport, Msgr. Quezada declined to make any comments to reporters. This caused surprise because they were expecting a news conference, as he gave to Mexican reporters prior to departing the neighboring country. An official press release was delivered, however. The mediator gives a lengthy report on the talks in this document.

Conde, who was accompanied by the rest of the members of the government delegation, answered questions from reporters and referred to the achievements made in the talks with the guerrillas.

In the press communique Quezada said it was necessary to suspend the talks because they had been meeting for more than 10 days. He also announced that the negotiations will resume on 26 March.

The agreements include the creation of the "Commission of the Truth or the Past." Its official name has not yet been fully established. It will be headed by the prosecutor for human rights, and will be made up of four members appointed by the mediator. Three of these members will be chosen from lists of candidates proposed by the university and the religious sectors, as well as from the Bar Association. These groups will be consulted first.

Quezada noted there has been no agreement regarding including a person in the commission appointed by the UN secretary general. The government feels this individual should only participate as an "observer." The guerrillas demand this person be a "member."

Another agreement concerns the creation of a group of "Honor Witnesses and Friends." This group will be made up of representatives from the Governments of Colombia, Spain, the United States, Mexico, Norway, and Venezuela.

According to the document, these representatives will witness the agreement as a way to guarantee and support the obligations in the document and to certify compliance.

These representatives will also support the efforts and duties of the mediator, keep abreast of the commitments contained in the document, learn about the initiatives presented by the parties and the results of those that are actually implemented, and witness other agreements.

As for the participation of sectors represented in the Oslo meeting and other sectors of Guatemalan society, Quezada said the parties recognize the sectors that participated in meetings with the URNG in El Escorial, Ottawa, Quito, Metepec, and Atlixco. He added that their participation and efforts helped make the beginning of direct talks between the government and URNG possible.

The document also ratifies the mediator's duty, in accordance with the Agreement of Mexico (April 1991), to report to those sectors about the development of the negotiations. It urges Msgr. Quezada to summon them for this purpose after the meeting is over. Other sectors of Guatemalan society will also have the same opportunity to receive information upon request.

It was confirmed in this meeting that sectors of Guatemalan society have a right to participate actively in the peace process by sending to the mediator and the parties their requests, studies, and opinions on the issues being addressed at the negotiations.

The document reports that representatives of Guatemalan society will be able to meet freely with the URNG, while enjoying full guarantees. These meetings will take place outside the framework of the negotiations and in the places and dates agreed by the interested parties.

There was support for the mediator's initiative to establish, through the National Reconciliation Commission, a permanent forum involving civilian sectors in support of the peace process. The goal of this forum will be to draft plans to support and enrich the negotiation process.

Msgr. Quezada said there was no agreement on the possibility of allowing civilians to participate in some aspects of the negotiations.

There was no significant progress in the drafting of a document to expedite the process, establish a timetable, and discuss the issues. As a result, no document containing the agreements reached at this meeting was signed because the parties decided all documents should be signed at a single ceremony.

Finally, the document reports that the parties, the observer, and the mediator thank the Mexican Government and people for their support and collaboration.

Government Rejects Charges of Clandestine Arrests

PA2303014493 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Mar 93 p 7

[Text] Government Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado has rejected accusations by Americas Watch, a human rights organization, condemning clandestine arrests in Guatemala.

Americas Watch, Alvarado noted, is resorting to terms "traditionally" used by international organizations for more than 20 years. Although it keeps making its usual accusations, it is not presenting any evidence to back its statements.

Alvarado said he could not comment further until he had carefully examined the document issued by the human rights organization.

Americas Watch distributed a communique condemning Guatemalan military officers' practice of keeping individuals suspected of involvement in guerrilla activities under clandestine arrest.

Government, Labor Unions Create Special Commission

PA2003042193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The government and several government labor unions have agreed to create a special high-level commission to discuss the main labor problems of government employees. Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero presided over a meeting with Labor Minister Mario Solorzano and Julio Daniel Aleman, the secretary of political affairs of the presidency. On behalf of the labor sector, leaders of a group called State Worker's First Instance Union [Instancia Unitaria de los Trabajadores del Estado], which combines leaders of the National Federation of State Workers Unions [Fenasteg] and the National Federation of Public Employees Unions [Fenasep].

During the meeting, it was agreed that the government will announce during the week of 22 March the names of the officials who will make up the high-level commission and the date on which it will begin to work. Another agreement was the establishment of a national agenda to discuss the main problems of Guatemalan society. Government labor union leaders said that it was necessary to exert continuous pressure on the government to get an official of the rank of vice president to hear them.

Rolando Yoc, the secretary general of the Health Workers Union, said that the privatization of certain basic health services—which the majority of workers oppose—is one of the issues to be discussed with the government.

[Begin Yoc recording] First, we firmly reject the idea because there is 80-percent poverty and extreme poverty. The people hardly have bus fare to come in for some sort of service, much less if they have to be hospitalized or have to buy medicines, the prices of which you know have increased obscenely. [end recording]

Monetary Board Approves Foreign Investment Plan

PA2003031693 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The Monetary Board has approved a new system to favor foreign investment in Guatemala. Lizardo Sosa Lopez, the president of the Bank of Guatemala and the Monetary Board, explained the new system.

[Begin Sosa recording] The problem we have, which the current exchange system does not resolve, is that whenever a foreign investor wanted to invest $20 million, for example, he could bring the money into the country, but if his investment called for importing capital goods, such as machinery, equipment, and such, he would have to use the exchange market on a day-to-day basis to have access to his money abroad. He could only export $250,000 a day to purchase such items, and when you invest in any industry you have to import machinery. This could discourage foreign investment.

As of now, with this decision by the Monetary Board, any company that seeks to invest in Guatemala and plans to cover the investment with loans from foreign banks or financial institutions, may import the funds and export them when he must pay for whatever imports of capital goods he needs. This new method makes it much easier to carry out foreign investments in the country and I think it is very positive. Equally, any Guatemalan citizen who wishes to invest in his country and uses foreign financing, may use this same procedure. This is something I find very positive. It is a measure that will surely benefit foreign investment in Guatemala. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Government Ministry Denies Paying Embassy Occupiers

PA2203232693 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta Artola said on 22 March that none of the officials at the

Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica had any links with the embassy occupiers. Mendieta said the Nicaraguan Government did not pay a single penny for the hostage's release, but Ambassador Alfonso Robelo Callejas' relatives gave $250,000 to the members of the Yolaina Commando, who took the money as their loot.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Mendieta]... Engineer Alfonso Robelo and according to police investigations conducted in San Jose by members of our own National Police. Bearing in mind the importance of this conflict for our government, it became necessary for him to travel there with two specialists to begin immediately gathering information that would allow us to conduct fruitful negotiations with Mr. Urbina and especially to achieve the hostages' safe release. That was our government's first priority.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Mendieta] After leaving Costa Rica, we clearly said this had been a bad precedent for the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments because it demonstrated the vulnerability of the embassies. Luis Fishman, government and public security minister, recognized that fact in a 22 March news conference. He spoke about the vulnerability of certain embassies in his country and said the embassy security system will be subject to an overall review. In Nicaragua we have a specialized force specifically to protect the embassies. It is a branch of the Government Ministry, and we can categorically say that a situation such as this could not happen here. [end recording]

Panama

Poll Indicates People Favor Partial Amnesty

PA2203174693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 Mar 93 P 1 A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] According to a recent CID [Multispeciality Development Counselors] -Gallup Poll, Panamanians believe that there are still political prisoners in Panama. The poll indicated that the majority of the people felt that an amnesty should be approved for releasing some of the imprisoned people.

The poll, conducted from 25 February to 5 March, revealed that 44 percent of the persons interviewed thought there were no political prisoners in Panama.

Although 56 percent of the 2,200 persons polled believed there were political prisoners in Panama, only 27 percent said they knew who these prisoners were.

Those who gave names of political prisoners, first mentioned Eduardo Herrera, a retired colonel who allegedly lead a police coup against the Guillermo Endara government.

As for the issue of amnesty, 45 percent of those who said there were political prisoners in the Panamanian jails stated that only some of them should be released. The poll results showed that 31 percent of those who believe there are political prisoners in Panama felt that none of them should be released.

Only 16 percent believe that everyone should be granted amnesty. Eight percent declined to answer that CID-Gallup question.

This is the eighth national poll taken in Panama since the December 1989 invasion. The poll was conducted on a personal basis in the homes 2,200 Panamanians. Only one person per household was polled.

The exclusive rights for disseminating the results of this poll were granted to EL PANAMA AMERICA and RPC Radio.

Polls Shows Indecision Regarding 1994 Elections

PA2003024493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] None of the current political parties is accepted by the majority of Panamanians polled by the CID [Multispeciality Development Counselors]-Gallup. The recent poll also revealed the only organizations that received slightly more support were the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] and the Arnulfist Party [PA].

According to the CID-Gallup poll, Panamanians are "undecided" about what political group they will support in the 1994 general elections.

The opposition PRD, which was created by the military structure as its political wing, is the party that was preferred slightly more (one out of every 10 Panamanians) by the 1,200 people interviewed by the polling firm from 25 February to 5 March.

The PRD is followed by the ruling PA, whose members include President Guillermo Endara and four of the 12 ministers.

The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) received the support of 6 percent of those polled, while the Papa Egoro party received 5 percent. The parties that received less support were Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] (4 percent), Liberal (they do not specify which of the factions) (3 percent), and Pala (Labor Party) (1 percent).

Indecision increases in accordance with the higher educational level of those polled. EL PANAMA AMERICA and Panamanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation have exclusive rights to the poll.

In the past year, the people's indecision regarding their preference for a party has increased 32 points. In May 1992, one out of every four Panamanians did not have a party, now it is the majority of Panamanians.

Political Party Preference According to Educational Level (in percent)

2Political Party	Educational Level Political Party Total	Primary	Secondary	Higher
PRD	10	8	11	10
PA	9	15	5	10
PDC	6	7	6	7
Papa Egoro	5	3	6	4
Molirena	4	3	5	3
Liberal	3	4	2	2
Pala	1	1	1	—
Others	5	6	4	4
Do not know/No Reply	57	53	60	60
Total	100	100	100	100

Argentina

Menem Postpones 28 March Trip to Spain

PY2203163293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1450 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (TELAM) — It was learned today at Government House that President Carlos Menem has postponed his official visit to Spain that was scheduled for this coming weekend.

The Argentine and Spanish Foreign Ministries agreed to the postponement due to the state of health of Juan de Borbon, Count of Barcelona, King Juan Carlos' father.

Menem was scheduled to travel on 28 March for a three-day visit to Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, and Barcelona, and was to have been officially received by King Juan Carlos. [passage omitted]

Menem Announces Political Party Reform Bill

PY2303031793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0028 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA)—President Carlos Menem announced this evening that he will send Congress an important bill proposing a reform of the political parties, which includes holding open internal elections for candidates and the replacement of "single lists" with a "uninominal" system allowing voters to cross out names and write in the name of another candidate they favor.

Menem also said the bill includes a strict control system for private contributions to political parties, which must inform the public about the origin of donations.

The political reform sponsored by the government, which will probably be sent to Congress by midweek, also will include an initiative to allow 16-year-olds to vote.

Menem chose to make these announcements during a rally of elderly people in the Isidro Casanova neighborhood, La Matanza District, Buenos Aires Province. During the ceremony he also announced that his administration will spend 50 million pesos this year to meet the elderly's needs.

In a clear campaign tone, Menem demonstrated his intention to be reelected in 1995 by saying: "We are not moving from here and we will continue working for the greatness of our motherland."

This attitude again was clearly observed at the end of his speech. Menem promised: "Nothing and no one will make us change our direction until we attain a more fair, free, and independent Argentina for the year 2000."

Menem was the only speaker at the ceremony, which took place in the Isidro Casanova Sports Club, organized by the Secretariat for Elderly Citizens to launch the so-called "National Program" of recreation for retired and pensioners.

Former presidential adviser Roberto Rimoldi Fraga, who hosted the ceremony, estimates that 7,300 elderly attended the rally, "much more than those who normally demonstrate in Plaza de Mayo square."

Presidential officials calculated the attendance to be about 6,500 people, while journalists estimated there were about 3,500 people present.

Menem shared the main podium with Deputy Alberto Pierri, who through the Federal League was one of the rally's main organizers; Social Action Minister Julio Cesar Araoz; former La Matanza Mayor Hector Cozzi; and San Justo Bishop Jorge Menvielle, among other personalities.

'People's Revolutionary Organization' Claims Bomb Attacks

PY2303025793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2204 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (TELAM)—The self-styled People's Revolutionary Organization [ORP] today claimed responsibility for the bomb explosions in the Rio Bank branches' automatic tellers early this morning. It also described bank owner Perez Companc as "an enemy of our nation."

The terrorist group became well known in November and December 1992 when it claimed responsibility for similar attacks. This time it did not make an anonymous phone call to report its actions but faxed a pamphlet to the various mass media organizations in the capital.

The pamphlet says that "the economic groups and the transnational enterprises are directly responsible for the health and public education conditions, the social security system's bankruptcy, and the increasing poverty affecting the majority of the people."

It adds that "Perez Companc was linked to Jorge Rafael Videla's dictatorship, a fact that was revealed when the military officer was sent to the Magdalena military prison and the economic group purchased a house in the city of Magdalena for Videla's wife, Raquel Hertridge, so she could remain near her husband."

The ORP notes, among other things, that the same sectors controlled economic power during the dictatorship and under Alfonsin's administration and that they also are controlling the current administration. It says: "We have to strip them of all their deceitful wealth."

Regulation Modifying Salary Negotiations Promulgated

PY2303000393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1039 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (NA)—The Executive Branch has promulgated a decree that modifies salary

negotiations by incorporating the labor-management arbitration board and maintaining the principle of productivity as one of the elements to take into account for salary increases.

To approve a new salary agreement, the Labor Ministry will see if the new agreement has clauses that violate public order and if the ideas of productivity, investments, new technology, professional training systems, and current regulations have been considered.

The request for a lower-level salary negotiation must be submitted within 30 days before the agreement's deadline, which means that notice of the termination of the contract with the company must be made.

Regarding the agreements that already have expired, a change in the negotiation level within 60 days from the enforcement of the new legal regulation can be requested.

The negotiations can be made on the basis of a "general pattern" of the general work conditions and the salary agreements made conventionally. This will be mandatory for all work activities, branches, sectors, or companies affected by the Collective Labor Agreement.

The negotiations also will be based on a "particular pattern" of work conditions and a variable salary that will be established above the general pattern and will be mandatory for workers included in the negotiations.

According to the regulation under No. 470, the employer and the union responsible for the collective agreement can change, expand, or abolish the agreement or enforce it once in accordance with the economic activity of the business or group of businesses where the agreement was made.

The particular pattern will only be applicable to the employers that sign the agreement. The agreement reached at any level of negotiation will be considered the valid conventional norm for the parties that signed the agreement, and it is exempted from any other conventional regulation in force.

Article 3 says the approval of the Collective Labor Agreement requires the presentation by any of the parties involved of the following:

Submit three original copies of the agreement. The agreement must respect the legal forms established by the Labor Ministry.

Ratify before officials the signatures contained in the agreement and in the request for approval.

The collective agreements with the participation of labor unions with legal statute that comprise the boundaries of activities of the company will not require approval. The agreements will be registered the Labor Ministry.

Provisional Satellite System by May Announced

PY2203214393 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1943 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM)—Entrepreneurial sources said Argentina will have a provisional domestic satellite system by the end of May at the latest. The system, which will be made up of satellites Anik-I and II, will provide higher quality and more power to television, telephone, and transmitted data signals.

The Aniks will retransmit signals on the KU band, whose quality is higher than the C band used by Argentina. This will improve the fidelity and accuracy of radio and television signals. Anik-I and II will operate provisionally until the installation of Nahuel-I, the first Argentine domestic satellite, is completed.

At the end of May, Dornier Deutsche Aerospace, which belongs to the Dasa consortium—this consortium submitted the winning offer for installation of the Nahuel satellite—hopes to have an approved orbit for the Aniks. The orbit should be ratified by the International Telecommunications Union, which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Even though the provisional system's orbit has not been established yet, the satellites will be installed about five degrees from the equatorial ring, in an appropriate position for any communications device because they will be accompanying the rotation of the earth, remaining over the same territory and at the same height.

The Aniks are now some 30 degrees west of their final position. Once their orbit has been approved, one of the satellites' thruster rockets will be activated to adjust the satellites' position.

Only a light impulse will be needed—there is no gravity in outer space—to adjust the position oriented toward Argentina, and another light impulse to stop the movement. Experts told TELAM that placing the Aniks in their position will take approximately one month.

Two provisional satellites—instead of one—will be installed to transmit signals with more fidelity and power, taking into account the growing demand and the Argentine enterprises that want to use satellite transmissions.

Each Anik will be fitted with 16 transponders (units that receive and retransmit waves), eight of which will have vertical polarization for uplinking and downlinking, while the other eight will have horizontal polarization.

The satellites' "footprint" (technical jargon) will be the only difference between the provisional and final systems. The Anik will not cover Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego in the south, and Jujuy, Salta, Formosa, and part

of the Chaco in the north. The Nahuel will cover the entire Argentine territory, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and southern Brazil.

The governments of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries have great expectations for this project, which will promote integration in the communications field.

When Argentina enters the satellite era, the cost for local consumers will drop, especially the fee they pay for access to an Intelsat satellite channel, which now covers Argentine demands and the cost of large ground stations they have to build in order to recieve the signals.

Considering that the Anik will transmit on the KU band, which is of superior quality compared to the Intelsat's C band, the satellite service cost will be higher, but since the new frequency range will require smaller and cheaper ground stations, it is estimated that costs will drop.

The Nahuel will be installed in 1996, but Dornier—which has considered the market's evolution—wants to launch the Nahuel-II into orbit within the following three years.

Nahuel-I's useful life will be 12 years, a period established by the quantity of fuel in its rockets at the time it is launched into space, possibly from French Guyana, in northern South America, on the Caribbean.

At the end of the 12-year period, the Dasa consortium will have to replace the satellite because the winning offer is for a period of 24 years. At that time, Argentina is expected to have at least four satellites in orbit, high-ranking Dornier officials told TELAM.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 2210 GMT on 21 March carries a report saying that "less than three months before placing satellites Anik-I and II in their final orbits, there are doubts as to whether it will be advantageous for Argentina to use the satellite positions the country has had for the past eight years for its domestic satellite system." The report adds that "the final locations will be approved in May when—according to a decision by the Dasa consortium—installation of the provisional satellite system will be completed."]

Bolivia

COB Communique on Resumption of Talks With Government

PY2203210493 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Jaime Murillo from Studio No. 3]

[Excerpt] We are in direct contact with Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leader Carlos Camargo, who will supply very important information on the conflict currently existing in our country.

Apparently, the talks with our country's government will be resumed today at 0900. Is this correct, Carlos?

[Begin recording] Good morning to you and to all Radio Fides and this program's listeners throughout our country.

We must inform the public that the COB executive board has released a communique that reads as follows:

1. In response to a petition by the Catholic Church to resume COB-government negotiations, the COB declares that it accepts this petition and asks the government to immediately resume discussions.

2. If the negotiations with the government are resumed, the COB will ask its national organizations to temporarily suspend their pressure measures on our national territory's streets in order to create a positive framework for the discussions.

This is a very important communique that was released last night. In this communique, we express our position of positively accepting the Catholic Church's petition and ask the government to resume talks.

We have already received an official communique and are aware of the fact that the government also has expressed its position. It was established that talks will resume at 0900 today. The talks will deal with the worker's petitions pending issues, that is, the salary issue and the mining issue. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Brazil

Franco, Ministers To Determine Wage Adjustment Rate of Public Servants

PY2203175193 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco will meet with five ministers this afternoon to determine the adjustment rate for the salaries of public servants.

The president did not go to Planalto Palace this morning. President Itamar Franco spent this morning at his house because he has influenza.

At Planalto Palace this afternoon, the president will meet with Economy Minister Eliseu Resende, Planning Minister Yeda Crusius, Labor Minister Walter Barelli, Administration Minister Luiza Erundina, and Antonio Veneu, the Armed Forces General Staff chief, to resolve the increase percentage for the salaries of public servants. Some ministers disagree over the percentage increase.

Economy Minister Eliseu Resende said the Treasury can only afford an adjustment of between 10 and 15 percent.

Labor Minister Walter Barelli already wants a 36-percent increase, like that granted by the private sector. He said that economic growth comes with better salaries.

As on other occasions, President Itamar Franco will have the final say on the adjustment.

Indians Take Over Railroad, Seize Foundation Office

PY2203192593 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] A few hours ago Indians took over the Carajas railroad in Maranhao State. The takeover occurred at km 299, some 400 km from Sao Luis.

Indians from the (Guajajara), (Krikati), (Guajai), and (Gaviao) tribes also seized the Funai [National Indian Foundation] office and are holding seven officials as hostages.

For the liberation of the railroad, the Indians are demanding the presence of the presidents of Funai and of the Rio Doce Valley Company. They want their land demarcated again.

With the takeover of the Carajas railroad, over 100,000 metric tonnes of iron ore will not be transported.

Chairman Acknowledges Problems, Denies Leaks at Nuclear Plant

PY2303004193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Mar 93 p 19

[Text] Marcio Costa, chairman of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, CNEN, on 19 March admitted that the tubes coated with inconel-600 at the Angra-1 nuclear plant have experienced problems, like a reduction in thickness or a tendency to collapse. He said, however, that there has never been a threat of radioactive leaks linked to this material.

Costa said: We always make an inspection when we change the plant's nuclear fuel. When we detect a reduction in the thickness or any problems in the material, we reinforce the damaged pipe to prevent any leaks.

Inconel-600 is used at Angra-1 to coat the tubes of the primary cooling system, the vapor system, and the reactor itself, which are the radioactive areas. This same system linked to the vapor generator leaked in 1986 due to a valve failure. The radioactive water, however, was confined inside emergency tanks.

The primary circuit, the vapor system, and the Angra-2 reactor already contain austenitic steel. According to an expert from Nuclen [Nuclebras Engineering, Inc.] (the company that builds the nuclear plant), the German reactor that had 140 fissures is not like the Brazilian one. Angra-1 is a boiling-water reactor (BWR), and Angra-2 is a pressurized-water reactor (PRW).

The expert says the various working conditions of each reactor can result in various material problems.

Minister Cited on Work Resumption of Angra-2 Nuclear Power Plant

PY2203210793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 93 Economy Section p 10

[Article by Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Science and Technology Minister Jose Israel Vargas yesterday said that President Itamar Franco will decide on, over the next few days, the resumption of the construction work on the Angra-2 nuclear power plant in Angra dos Reis. The minister said the construction work will receive funds from German banks and Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. [FCE], which will spend about $50 million (1.154 trillion cruzeiros) per year.

The minister said $1.5 billion (34.63 trillion cruzeiros) will be invested in construction work on the power plant, which should be completed within four years. Angra-2's construction work began about 18 years ago and already has cost about $4.6 billion (106.2 trillion).

An advocate of the construction of nuclear power plants in our country since the 1970's, the minister emphasized the fact that Angra-2 will be constructed with Treasury funds. He said: "FCE has its own funds for investment." The blackout that hit Rio de Janeiro State on 10 March reportedly contributed to Itamar's decision.

FCE experts already are working on the update of the bidding procedures that virtually have been completed since the Collor administration. About 95 percent of Angra-2's structural works have been completed and, after it is inaugurated, Angra-2 will be able to generate 1,300 megawatts.

Poliolefinas Company Privatized After Delay

PY2203130393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Mar 93 p 21

[Excerpt] After more than five hours delay, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development last night finally managed to conduct the Poliolefinas Company privatization auction. The sale had been suspended following the granting of an order a few hours earlier by Judge Jose Ricardo Siqueira Regueira of the Rio de Janeiro 18th Federal Court. At the request of the Attorney General's office, however, Federal Regional Court Judge Paulo de Freitas Barata annulled the measure and allowed the company to be auctioned. The 31.47 percent of the shares that belonged to the Petroquisa [Petrobras Chemical Corporation] were purchased by the Odebrecht Company, at their minimum price of $86.1 million (1.9 trillion cruzeiros). The Odebrecht already owned 31.47 percent of the shares. Of the $86.1 million, only $25.8 million will be paid in cash. [passage omitted]

* Front Leaders View Prospects for Plebiscite

93SM0185A Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 23 Feb 93 p 3

[Interviews with Senator Jose Richa, president of the Ulysses Guimaraes Parliamentary Front; Senator Marco Maciel, general coordinator of the Presidentialist Republican Parliamentary Front; and Deputy Cunha Bueno, president of the Monarchist Parliamentary Front, by Lydia Medeiros; place and date not given: "Plebiscite Starts Million-Dollar War on TV"]

[Text] *The war has started. With the plebiscite that will decide Brazil's form and system of government two months away, the leaders of the three fronts—parliamentary, monarchist, and presidential—are beginning to attack their opponents in order to win voter support. Parliamentarian Jose Richa (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], Parana), presidentialist Marco Maciel (PFL [Liberal Front Party], Pernambuco), and monarchist Cunha Bueno (no party, Sao Paulo) are trusting in their radio and television campaigns to arouse people's interest and move up in the opinion polls.*

The three fronts are spending heavily on the electronic media. But their campaigns are costing different amounts. Bueno calculates that radio and TV programs will cost about $500,000. The presidentialists estimate their costs at $1.5 million. The parliamentarians estimate that they will spend as much as $7.4 million, but Senator Richa says he does not have the slightest idea of the campaign's cost.

The challenge to the presidentialist campaign is to harmonize appearances by the top leaders on the free publicity programs, a task that Senator Maciel has been handling diplomatically. The movement claims to have the support of 15 governors, and it wants to win over Helio Garcia of Minas Gerais, who is also being wooed by the parliamentarians. Garcia is scheduled to receive a visit from Maciel before this week is out.

Parliamentarians and monarchists agree in their criticism of the presidential system. In Richa's opinion, the presidentialists are lying about their support by the governors. Cunha Bueno tries to demolish the republic by drawing attention to Brazilian crises.

The president of the Ulysses Guimaraes Parliamentary Front, Senator Jose Richa, rebuts critics who say that his system is a blank check from the voter's standpoint. "They are liars; our model is complete and ready to go in the form of a constitutional amendment." In an interview with CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, Richa discusses the advantages of his system and claims that the president would be elected directly, with no risk of conflict with the prime minister: "There is no conflict. That is the prejudice of an underdeveloped country."

The biggest problem facing the general coordinator of the Presidentialist Republican Parliamentary Front, Senator Marco Maciel, is the internal struggle among the movement's political bosses. Being potential presidential candidates in 1994, the presidentialist leaders are trying to take advantage of their time on TV to launch their candidacies. To prevent that, Maciel is proposing not to make names a part of the campaign.

And the president of the Monarchist Parliamentary Front, Deputy Cunha Bueno, claims that the quarrels between the two branches of Brazil's royal family will not disturb the campaign to bring back a king. "This is a matter of people's sovereignty, of national law." Bueno says that if the monarchy wins the plebiscite, Congress will choose the person within the Braganca dynasty who is in the best position to rule.

Richa: "Defenders of Presidentialism Are Liars"

[Medeiros] Senator, why are the presidentialists rising in the opinion polls?

[Richa] They are not rising at all. People are waiting for more information, and they know that it will come on the free television time.

[Medeiros] Do you feel, then, that the campaign will facilitate the acceptance of parliamentarism?

[Richa] Certainly. As people come to know what parliamentarism is, their support for that choice will be a matter of good sense. Parliamentary government is more democratic and more transparent, and it has mechanisms for solving crises more quickly. Parliamentarism makes it possible for the people to elect their representatives in government and in Parliament. But if the institutions are not functioning, they can be subjected to pressure and toppled. Presidentialism's fundamental mistake is that it lacks a moderating power that can resolve crises and put an end to them. The Armed Forces end up intervening, and the result is a break with democracy. Is it not a whole lot easier to have the president of the republic acting as a judge, elected by the people, to put an end to crises than to have the Armed Forces intervening and also experiencing the erosion of their prestige?

[Medeiros] The Parliamentary Front has received the support of central unions and even the FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries]. Have you received any campaign funds from them?

[Richa] No, we have not. But the law was regulated and published just recently, and that delayed arrangements and the spending authorization. But now everything has been put in order.

[Medeiros] How much will the campaign cost?

[Richa] I do not have the slightest idea. But we are going to spend only what we collect.

[Medeiros] How are the parliamentarians going to divide TV airtime among their main representatives? How can they harmonize the presence of Maluf, Fleury, and others?

[Richa] In our travels we have consulted our top leaders. In the Northeast we held a meeting with people from all the parties at the home of Mayor Jarbas Vasconcellos (Recife) of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]. We held meetings in Bahia, Sao Paulo, and also Brasilia. For the time being, the idea with the most support as far as the beginning of the programs is concerned is that no one will speak because none of us is a candidate. We do not have that kind of problem, which stirs up strong jealousies. The main character in our programs will be our idea: parliamentarism. We are going to explain to the population what the system is. After that, if there is a need for it, we will broadcast pictures of the people who are on our side. Then, in a third stage, if necessary, there will be messages from the main leaders who are on our side. I can assure you that there will be no fighting for airtime. That is a problem the presidentialists have.

[Medeiros] The presidentialists say that parliamentarism is like a blank check because your proposal leaves several questions unanswered, examples being the role of the Senate and the system's extension to the states and municipalities. How do you respond to that criticism?

[Richa] They are liars. Our model is already complete and ready to go in the form of a constitutional amendment: the president of the republic will be elected by direct suffrage. The Senate will lose its legislative duties but gain federative duties: it will become the guardian of the federation so as to prevent the stronger states from overwhelming the weaker ones. There is also provision for the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. The blank check is presidentialism: the people vote only once every five years, and the president of the republic, with the excessive power he will have, will no longer listen to the people. Under the presidential system, the president is elected by the people but governs only with the elite. The presidentialists refer to the United States as the country in which presidentialism has worked and then criticize our model, in which the head of the government is elected indirectly. In the United States, the president is elected by indirect suffrage, which is what we are proposing!

[Medeiros] Is there no room for conflict between a president who is elected directly and a prime minister who is elected indirectly?

[Richa] No, there is no conflict. Why would there be? That is the prejudice of an underdeveloped country. If the duties, rights, and powers of each individual in the parliamentary system are stipulated in the Constitution, the only thing everyone has to do is follow what is written in the law. A candidate for president of the republic will know that he is only going to be the chief of state. He will conduct foreign policy and appoint judges for the higher courts and directors of the Central Bank. Together with the Senate, he will be the guardian of the federation. There will be no reason for conflict.

[Medeiros] Will parliamentarism be implemented in the states and municipalities?

[Richa] It will be extended to the states and municipalities beginning in 1999. Everything is clear. There is nothing the presidentialists can say. Actually, I know that their position is difficult. Justifying the political mess that presidentialism has ended up creating in Brazil over the past 100 years is a difficult task. So they have to lie about parliamentarism.

[Medeiros] Are there guarantees that the model being proposed by the parliamentarians will be approved in the constitutional revision process?

[Richa] Of course. We all signed, and we are the majority. But the presidentialists and monarchists have also signed a protocol of intention with us, and that protocol stipulates that whichever model wins the plebiscite will be incorporated into the Constitution with the help and votes of everyone.

[Medeiros] The presidentialists say they have the support of 12 governors, while the parliamentarians supposedly have no more than six on their side. Is the front going to intensify its hunt for governors?

[Richa] They are lying even about that. They do not have that many governors behind them, and we do have the six that are firm and have made public statements. The undecided governors are going to make up their minds very soon, and then we will see who has the majority of governors. Since this campaign is nonpartisan, this is the first time that the people will be deciding something for Brazil, and I do not think the politicians are going to play a crucial role. Support by the politicians is very relative.

[Medeiros] If parliamentarism loses in the plebiscite, will you really resign from public life?

[Richa] Ah! Yes, I will! Because I will no longer believe in what is there. I am an honest politician. I have responsibilities. If parliamentarism does not win, I will not violate my conscience and deceive my voters.

Maciel: "We Are no Longer the Silent Majority"

[Medeiros] Senator, why have the parliamentarians lost ground in the opinion polls?

[Maciel] There are two reasons for that phenomenon. The first is that we presidentialists have begun to get organized. We were a silent majority, but now we have begun to sell our proposal. The parliamentarians have been organized since the Constituent Assembly—since 1987. Since they did not win in 1988, they have remained organized in preparation for the plebiscite. We won back then and demobilized, and it was not until the end of last year that we resumed our efforts and stuck our oar in. The second reason is that as the plebiscite draws

nearer, the people are beginning to reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems and reaching the obvious conclusion that what we have in Brazil is a modern presidentialism that decentralizes power and democratizes decisionmaking.

[Medeiros] You have said that the economic elites support parliamentarism. Is your front finding it difficult to attract contributions? The campaign is undecided....

[Maciel] At the moment we are operating on credit. We really began the campaign because of a legal requirement. Deputy Osorio Adriano was appointed financial coordinator. He is a businessman from Brasilia and played a role in Tancredo Neves' campaign. He is a highly regarded man with know-how on the subject. We have a disadvantage and an advantage. The disadvantage is that the economic crisis is serious, and businessmen find it difficult to make contributions. The advantage is that legislation allows physical and legal persons to make donations of up to 45,000 Ufir's [Reference Fiscal Units] and to deduct those amounts from their income tax. This makes donations easier to obtain. I would like to say that we have a concern to ensure that our spending is completely transparent.

[Medeiros] How much is the campaign going to cost?

[Maciel] Two-thirds of our spending will be on the electronic media. We estimate that the cost may total about $1.8 million. That is much less than the parliamentarians are spending, because we are conducting a poor man's campaign. It was not possible to spend less than that due to the technological sophistication involved.

[Medeiros] Is support by the governors crucial to the campaign?

[Maciel] It is important. The governors are natural leaders in their states. They play a crucial role, but they would not guarantee the victory of the cause by themselves. We expect to have the support of 15 of the 27 governors.

[Medeiros] Does that include Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia?

[Maciel] Helio Garcia tends to be a presidentialist, but we have not yet spoken with him in person. I have talked to him on the telephone, and I hope to see him on the presidentialist platform.

[Medeiros] Will the presidentialist campaign not be in fact a rehearsal for the general election of 1994?

[Maciel] It is a certainty that at this point, we must restrict our campaign to a single appeal: that on behalf of republican presidentialism. That is what unites us all in this campaign. We are aware that we cannot "put names" on the campaign now. Candidacies can be launched only after the plebiscite, because doing otherwise would create very great difficulties in the conduct of our campaign. We realize that when we visit the states, the leaders—the possible candidates—will appear, and this reflects a popular feeling. We are going to work only for the cause.

[Medeiros] How are you going to manage the disagreements and distribute airtime among the leaders on television?

[Maciel] This is manageable on television because we can construct an electronic platform—that is, people do not need to be together physically. We are going to produce a program with a unified text, but we will acknowledge the various leaders and various parties, possibly even through regionalization.

[Medeiros] Governor Leonel Brizola has said that the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] will conduct a parallel campaign and have airtime with your front. How will that be done?

[Maciel] He will have airtime just as the parties that insist on it will also have airtime, within a range of discussion that is republican and presidentialist. It will not be possible to bring everyone together physically, but we are going to work with a maximum of presence in the spirit and a minimum of physical presence.

[Medeiros] The presidentialist plan called for Senate approval of ministers of state. Why was that deleted from the proposal?

[Maciel] It was one of my ideas. I transplanted the idea from the U.S. model. The United States has been doing it for over 200 years. We recently saw President Clinton experiencing difficulty getting Senate approval for two of his appointments. The idea is that the president should select people above suspicion. I encountered some resistance to that idea within the presidentialist bloc and decided to withdraw it.

[Medeiros] What kind of resistance?

[Maciel] There are various shades of opinion, and we have a code: our proposal will include only what is consensual. For example, there was consensus on the issue of reducing the term of office to four years.

[Medeiros] Does the presidentialist proposal talk about reelection of the president, the governors, and the mayors?

[Maciel] No. That is not in our proposal. There is opinion favorable to the idea, but I personally am opposed to reelection. Incidentally, that is something with no tradition in Brazilian constitutionalism at either the federal, state, or municipal level. I know that among the presidentialists, there are many people in favor of it, but I am against it because I feel that on his second day in office, the newly elected president, governor, or mayor is likely to begin campaigning to win a second term. And that can exacerbate, perhaps not corruption, but at least populism, possessiveness, and corporatism, which in my opinion are harmful to Brazilian society.

[Medeiros] How will you conduct yourself politically if the parliamentarians win the plebiscite?

[Maciel] I feel that we must obey the rules of the game. I hope it will not happen. I know that the people know how to vote. I am very hopeful. I am not certain because in politics we must work with many variables, and that means we can never be certain. If parliamentarism wins, I will continue my activity in Congress. I feel that I will have to accept it and help implement it. But we will have some difficult moments, especially in the first 10 to 12 years, because the model that is being proposed contains a number of contradictions and requires reforms without which the system will not work. I do not know whether Congress will be willing, at least during those years, to make the necessary changes.

Bueno: Monarchists Relying on "Real Chances"

[Medeiros] Deputy, does the monarchy have a chance of winning this plebiscite?

[Bueno] The chances are real. The one who has little can only go up. Children are born small. Only monsters are born big.

[Medeiros] How are the monarchist campaign's finances? Have there been donations?

[Bueno] We are waiting for the president of the republic to sign the regulations implementing the law on donations that has already been issued by the Ministry of Finance. The Monarchist Parliamentary Movement has an active membership. There are over 70,000 members scattered around Brazil who have been supporting what has been done for the campaign so far—and it has been the necessary minimum. We have a small newspaper called CARA OU COROA, and stickers and T-shirts are being sold by the members, who send part of the money to the Central Committee.

[Medeiros] How much is the campaign for the monarchy going to cost?

[Bueno] It will cost as much as we are able to collect. We are estimating about $500,000 for the radio and TV campaign. I know that the parliamentarians have a budget of around $14 million, if I am not mistaken, and that the presidentialists probably have no limit.

[Medeiros] Is the quarrel between the two branches of the royal family not disrupting the campaign?

[Bueno] There is no quarrel within the royal family. That is one more falsehood they are fabricating against us. Incidentally, the other day Antonio Carlos Magalhaes refrained from attending the launching of the Presidentialist Front because, he said, there were too many thieves. So the quarrel I see is in the presidentialist movement, because everyone in it is a candidate for president of the republic. The other day Ibsen Pinheiro, the former president of the Chamber of Deputies, argued in favor of the parliamentarians with the statement that while they can all travel in the same airplane, the presidentialists cannot even get on the same platform.

[Medeiros] But there is a dispute in the family over the throne.

[Bueno] It is not concerned with the inherited right of an individual or family but with national law—people's sovereignty. That is why we are going to have a plebiscite first. Under the monarchy, the process will be the same as it is in Spain. Juan Carlos is king of Spain because the people's legitimate representatives, meeting in the Spanish assembly, recognized that within the historical Spanish dynasty, which is the House of Bourbon, he was the one most qualified to exercise moderating power. Brazil is the only country in Latin America that has a historical dynasty, and that is the House of Braganca, whose members are the descendants of Pedro I, Pedro II, and Princess Isabel. If the people want a monarchy, their representatives will have to decide who, within the historical dynasty, is in the best position to exercise moderating power, as was done in modern and democratic Spain.

[Medeiros] Princes Luiz and Bertrand of the collateral branch are fighting to appear on television. How is this going to be handled?

[Bueno] It does not have to be handled. As I said, it is not a family problem. I am a monarchist not because of A, B, or C; I am a monarchist because the republic has not worked, and the presidential system has not worked. Democracy in Brazil experiences long periods of dictatorship interspersed with brief periods of apparent constitutionality, and we are a group of Brazilians who object to that situation, which we want to transform into a less expensive and more modern system of government. And that means the monarchy, since we have a historical dynasty.

[Medeiros] Why is monarchy the "parliamentary system that works," as your campaign slogan says?

[Bueno] First we must talk about why the presidential system does not work. Proof is in the fact that in the past 67 years, only one elected civilian president of the republic has completed his term, and that was Juscelino [Kubitschek]. The system does not work from the institutional standpoint, and it does not work from the social standpoint. We currently have 50 percent of the Brazilian population excluded from the rights of citizenship. Efforts have been made to patch up presidentialism with whatever was at hand. In fact, we have had seven patching jobs. The republic has had seven different constitutions attempting to mend the presidential system.

[Medeiros] What about republican parliamentarism?

[Bueno] Under the parliamentary system, the one who governs is the prime minister, not the president of the republic. We have a tradition or culture which says that it is the president who rules. So are the people going to

elect a president who will pretend to be like the queen of England? Is it not better for us to have a king who is uncommitted to any party or economic group? The president will always be a factious man in permanent conflict with the prime minister. Brazil's history proved that when, under the parliamentary system, Joao Goulart started a conspiracy against the prime minister and the referendum put an end to the system. Imagine what will happen if a president elected by one party with 50 million votes decides to get along with a prime minister from another party who has been elected by a parliamentary majority. We will be institutionalizing the coup system in Planalto Palace. A monarchy is superior because of the king's neutrality.

[Medeiros] How will the campaign respond to possible comparisons with the scandals in the British royal family?

[Bueno] The scandals involving Prince Charles of Great Britain have not gone beyond the bedroom. The British have not lost jobs, the government has not fallen, the pound has not been devalued, the press has not been censored, and no citizen has been arrested or deported. The most recent problem in Great Britain, if we can call it a problem, occurred 46 years ago when the king fell in love with a divorced woman. Those are problems of the heart, and every human being is subject to them. Crises in the republic end in military mutiny, banishment, press censorship, and intervention in the unions and universities.

[Medeiros] If the monarchy loses the plebiscite, what will happen to your activity?

[Bueno] I certainly will not give up public life, but I will continue as a hostage of the republic. If the monarchy does not win the plebiscite, I will be very sad because I will be condemning my son to having to fight for the country's redemocratization from time to time. I want a more stable system. If we are not successful, I will be frustrated with myself because I did not succeed in conveying to the Brazilian population, which will make the decision, the advantages of what I am proposing: a modern and inexpensive system of government known as parliamentary monarchy.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Ratifies Support for Modernization Bill

PA2203151793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen has defended the legality and cleanliness of the modernization process. The president ratified his determination to promote the Modernization Draft Bill with clear action and with the support of all Ecuadorans.

Duran-Ballen believes that public sector enterprises should be run in an efficient manner in order to develop them. The president explained that modernization is not the same as privatization, adding that this bill is aimed at modernizing the state so that the public sector becomes as efficient as the private enterprise.

The president noted the need to increase and improve public services, without there being a need for state subsidies. Duran-Ballen hopes to sell specific public companies to the private sector under well-defined regulations.

Cuban Charge Comments on Secretary's 'Disappearance'

PA2203040193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0133 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Quito, 21 Mar (EFE)—The Cuban Embassy in Ecuador on 21 March described Second Secretary Carlos Valdez, who disappeared on 19 March in Quito, as a "common criminal." It reported the official took with him several thousand dollars belonging to the diplomatic mission.

Cuban Charge d'Affaires Arturo Yero told reporters the embassy does not know whether Valdez deserted as other sources have suggested. "I do not know whether he deserted. I only know he disappeared with thousands of dollars. To us he is a common criminal," the diplomat said.

The Ecuadoran Police are investigating Valdez' disappearance since his car was found abandoned on a Quito street on 19 March. The Ecuadoran Government has not yet issued an official report on this case but Cuban exile sources in Ecuador said this is apparently a desertion. About 10 Cubans have requested and won asylum in Ecuador in the past few months, including officials, professionals, artists, and students.

Paraguay

Caballero Urges Government, Armed Forces To Uphold Oaths

PY2203215593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Guillermo Caballero Vargas, the National Encounter's presidential candidate, addressed the nation over radio and television on the night of 21 March. Caballero Vargas called on the Armed Forces to comply with their constitutional duties in order to guarantee the 9 May elections.

The message states: "Within the next few hours the Colorado Party leadership will finally decide who in the end will be the candidates to represent the party in the 9 May elections. On 9 May the people will decide in the election of the first democratic government. I know perfectly well that there are minority groups fantasizing about the idea of a legal coup, and that they are

preaching the violation of the Constitution and the most elemental rules of equal opportunities for all participants."

In another passage of his address, Caballero Vargas stressed that "those who have the intention of blocking this transition toward democracy say they want to guarantee governability, but they are mistaken because the only way to guarantee governability is through clean and just elections and through respect for the will of the people. They are mistaken because it is better that it be known that those who dare to embark on such an adventure will have to inexorably face justice, not only of the courts but also history."

The candidate concluded his message saying that "at this crucial point, the compliance with the oath to the Constitution is a patriotic duty. Thus, I know that the government and the Armed Forces will comply with their word of honor."

Anonymous Caller Threatens To Destroy More Itaipu Units

PY2203195893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p 18

[Article by Hector Guerin]

[Excerpts] Ciudad del Este—Itaipu Binational [hydroelectric dam project] sources have confirmed that on 18 March, the day the damaged stator bars of a turbine were detected, several calls were received from an individual who refused to be identified, but who claimed responsibility for damaging the turbine.

According to our sources the supposed saboteur spoke fluent Portuguese. He reported that other damage has yet to be found by technicians. He declined to mention where this damage could be found, refusing to mention the danger that such damage could entail.

The anonymous voice told Itaipu officials that the damage found on the nine stator bars happened during the latest strike of Paraguayan and Brazilian workers, which paralyzed labor activity for two days at the binational enterprise.

Florentin Gomez del Puerto, secretary general of the Alto Parana Civil Construction Workers Union, has reported that during the strike the entity's security employees did not fulfill their duties, "worrying more about repressing workers than the security of the dam."

The director of the Maintenance and Projects Department has not ruled out the possibility of sabotage, adding that he will release the official results of the investigations in April.

During a visit by the press to the dam on 19 March, Itaipu technicians reported that the damage was intentional. [passage omitted]

The strangest thing is that the individual, allegedly a Brazilian citizen, until last night, has not made any demands in exchange for stopping the sabotage, limiting himself only to threatening to destroy other units of the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. [passage omitted]

Polish Trade Mission Arrives for Talks

PY2203164693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p 13

[Excerpt] The first Polish trade mission has arrived and will hold important meetings with members of the public and private sectors.

Polish Ambassador to Paraguay Ryszard Schnepf emphasized the historical importance of the visit, which will generate prospects for both countries. Schnepf was named ambassador one year ago, restoring relations after some 50 years.

The mission, headed by Marek Gradzki, president of the Polish National Commerce and Industry Chamber, comprises 11 representatives from the import and export sectors.

Schnepf said: "We will begin trade contacts between our two countries, whose economies seem to complement each other." He also highlighted the Paraguayan Government's cooperation, through its representatives, in organizing this visit. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Remarks on Parliament, Clinton, Foreign Debt

PA2203174993 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Mar 93

["Exclusive" interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Guido Lombardi at the Panamericana Television studio in Lima on the "Panorama" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lombardi] You are now criticizing the current parliament. You are no longer criticizing the democracy of political parties. You are more or less criticizing the same things.

[Fujimori] No.

[Lombardi] Two days ago, you said four parliamentarians should not decide the issue, that all Peruvians should make this decision.

[Fujimori] We are, of course, talking about the reelection issue. I did not criticize the parliament. I voiced a very cordial concern to the Congress within the framework of this new relationship between the Executive and Legislative Branches. The president should by no means remain silent and fail to voice his opinion because it would reflect a lack of democracy.

I consider myself just another citizen; a citizen who has the opportunity to reach a large number of people. I must voice this concern. I alerted people to the fact that the commission tasked with studying the Constitution is delaying the issues because of their structure instead of their meaning.

[Lombardi] You mean we must not focus on periods and commas but on concepts that people understand. You are urging parliamentarians, however, to deal with the concerns and daily needs of the common people and not only with the basic aspects of the Constitution.

[Fujimori] When I refer to basic aspects I am not only referring to the balance of power, to the Judicial Branch, and so on but to the solution of the people's problems. I have been reading the Constitution now that I have been inaugurating one or two schools each week to avoid repeating the same arguments at each inauguration ceremony.

Article 23 gives parents the possibility of selecting the school they want their children to attend. I know nearly all of the new neighborhoods in Lima. What possibilities did parents have to choose between two schools in Esteras, between one here and another 10 blocks away? There is a curious thing [words indistinct] the parents and there was talk about the gratuity of education. I think inconsistencies like these must be overcome.

[Lombardi] The Constitution should not have an article that is not used or complied with because then the Constitution would become more of a symbol than a useful tool for development. Is this correct?

[Fujimori] No, the Constitution should have very clear and applicable objectives. The government, especially the Executive and Legislative Branches, should further the compliance of the set objectives. Most of the articles in the Constitution of 1979 were not useful for the people. [passage omitted]

[Lombardi] Excuse my interruption, Mr. President, but I would like to end this segment with Yeltsin. I would like to know what you would tell him. What mistake do you think Yeltsin should not make in the next few days or weeks?

[Fujimori] Well, I have had a lot of experience and do believe I could show him a thing or two. He should not budge. He has to defend.

[Lombardi] Do you believe you backed down?

[Fujimori] No, but attempts were made to make me back down. I did not budge. I followed a strategy that turned out to be favorable and the results can be seen now.

[Lombardi] Are you optimistic? Can Yeltsin in Russia and Fujimori in Peru be able to cope or will they need a system to lead us to a real democracy?

[Fujimori] There is a difference between those two cases. Peru is a Third World country and Russia is a former world power. There is another difference: Apparently and according to news cables, Yeltsin has the support of the United States and Peru did not have it. Thus, the Peruvian situation at the time was much more difficult. We were establishing a new system that I believe is continuing.

[Lombardi] What would you tell Bill Clinton?

[Fujimori] I am waiting to hear what he says in regard to his foreign policy. I have the impression, however,—after the reinsertion process, which was fundamentally attained with U.S. support—that there is a better opinion of what is happening in Peru.

[Lombardi] Mr. President, the reinsertion process you have mentioned has been obtained with a strong executive effort. The government has maintained a coherent program and an austere and balanced fiscal policy to attain this reinsertion. Peru is again eligible to receive international credit, but what does this big victory, which was attained by the Peruvian Government last week, mean for the regular citizen? After seven years, we are eligible again. What does this mean to a regular Peruvian citizen, the resident of Ande and San Juan de Miraflores.

[Fujimori] I intentionally received the news in Callejon de Guayas, a small town forgotten by politics, governments, as well as the weather [word indistinct]. I just returned to Callejon de Guayas again. I made two trips there last week. I just love the place and have plans for the people there.

The flow of capital from international cooperation, such as the World Bank, for development programs will take a few months. On 22 March, the people of Caraz talked to me about their need for a paved highway. I believe their desire for a Caraz-Guayan-Cahimbote highway is totally justified.

[Lombardi interrupting] ...A road existed there in the past and has disappeared.

[Fujimori] Right. This could be done and it would be a great highway for tourism. This would require, for example, financing from the World Bank. At least, this would be a possibility. The most important thing and something that has taken place even before our reinsertion, is the flow of investments. It does not matter—as politicians are always baselessly criticizing—if the flow of capital is large or small. We will have a positive flow of investments. It is already occurring. We no longer have capital loss in the amounts we experienced in previous years. Our capital is not going to Chile and Bolivia to be invested in factories and people are not taking their millions to Miami. Now, there is a flow of investment—we have spoken little about this and it has received almost no publicity— in mining, gold, and the sale of [name indistinct], which represented an investment of $500 million. A short time ago, I received a group of investors who have established the best and most efficient fishmeal factories in the world. They have

invested $60 million and we had never seen this kind of investment in the country before. [passage omitted]

[Lombardi] Speculative investments are clearly being registered by the stock market, but this investment could be gone tomorrow. Is it not true? Chilean, Argentine, and even Mexican investments are being made, but they are speculative investments.

[Fujimori] Speculative investments are made when there is a flight of capital from those countries. One can notice, however, that there are intentions to establish businesses in Peru.

[Lombardi] As for....

[Fujimori, interrupting] It is important to note the following: Even though it may seem incredible, Peru is considered in international financial circles the second most profitable emerging market in the world, which is something extraordinary. Who could have imagined that Peru, which was bankrupt in 1990, is emerging in this manner.

[Lombardi] You are really pleased to see this. I would like to talk about the limitations of this success. The size of the Peruvian debt is of such a magnitude that even though we have returned to the world financial systems and are beginning to receive loans, the only thing we can do is pay our debts if we want to remain part of the international financial system. We have to use up our scarce resources to pay the debt. How will Peru develop itself? How will Peru grow?

[Fujimori] We must note that we are talking about huge debts, one of the largest in the world. It is a debt of $22 billion, which compared to the total exports per year of $3 billion is seven times that figure.

[Lombardi] The amount of money each Peruvian owes when he is born is the largest in the world.

[Fujimori] It is about $1000 per person. It is truly a burden for the country's economy. What is the strategy we must follow when dealing with the debt? No matter what strategy we follow—there are several negotiation strategies in the world such as the Houston, Trinidad and so on—we will be forced to make yearly payments that are very large. We are not only talking about our debts with the Paris Club, the international financial organizations, but with international private banks as well. The idea is to make these debt payments less harsh.

[Lombardi] Increase the time period to pay the debts.

[Fujimori] To increase the time period to pay the debts as if it were almost a debt pardon. If we get a 15-year grace period and 30 years to pay the debt at manageable interest rates of 5 or 5.5 percent, we would be able to keep the debt under control.

President Comments on Reintegration, Economy

PA1903162293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori said on 18 March in Huaraz that our country is no longer a pariah among the international community. We are again worthy of the international financial community's trust.

The president reiterated that nothing would have been possible if the economic program had not advanced in parallel with the reintegration process that ended successfully on 18 March.

[Begin Fujimori recording] I have received this good news in Huaylas, a genuinely historic moment for Peru. The effects of this difficult and arduous process will have repercussions nationwide. We would like the financing we might obtain through international organizations and multilateral cooperation to reach the distant provinces. We must start with those neglected places.

The impact will naturally be felt in the economy and in development in general, not only due to the international credit to which Peru already has access, but also due to the confidence it inspires in investors. Inasmuch as that trust had already been expressed through investment, it will now be even greater.

Capital for installing factories and industrial plants and therefore generating employment will enter Peru because we have already achieved reintegration. There is something very important that we should not forget: This economic program has advanced in parallel with the pacification program. We would not have achieved anything if the reintegration was attained while terrorism continued to advance as it was until just recently. Terrorism is being controlled. The atmosphere grows more peaceful every day.

Thus, pacification, reintegration, stabilization, profound reform, and educational modernization will allow us to take the country down the path of progress.

This reintegration process has really demanded a lot of work, it has meant many sacrifices. Strangely enough, after 5 April there was virtual unanimity. The reintegration has confirmed that the work has been worthwhile.

Some still believe that Peru can live in isolation and develop its economy in a closed manner. That is a mistake. Peru must participate in the world economy with concrete facts.

Peru is quietly becoming more active the Pacific Basin economy. With the cornerstone we have laid, Peru's situation will change radically within a few years for everyone's benefit. [end recording]

Troops Raid Tupac Amaru Settlement in Chorrillos

PA1903223093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Army troops arrested 40 undocumented people during a raid on the Tupac Amaru settlement in Chorrillos. Two of the people arrested are suspected of being linked to terrorist activities. This is the second time the Army staged raids in the upper Villa hills. The raid was staged very early in the morning, causing many people who were asleep to delay opening their doors. Most of those arrested are criminals that abound in the area.

Army units arrested the undocumented people at 0330 the morning of 19 March. As can be seen, most were youths, who were unable to justify the Army material and clothing seized.

Some residents opened their doors reluctantly and demanded that the Army troops show their identification. The troops were transported by truck to the area, where they staged a house-to-house search on foot. Approximately 40 youths, mostly criminals, were being held in custody at the sports stadium at 0530 on the morning of 19 March. Soldiers fired on two criminals to keep them from escaping.

[Begin Commander Maximo Huambachana recording] The raid resulted in the arrest of some 40 to 45 undocumented people, including two women. The National Counterterrorism Directorate, which also sent out a team, said two subversives were taken to their office for interrogation. [end recording]

National Council for Peace, Attorney General's Office Sign Agreement

PA1903161893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Francisco Diez Canseco, chairman of the National Council for Peace, stated that a revision of terrorism laws and sentence reductions for those who cooperate with the authorities was necessary. He made those remarks after signing a cooperation agreement with the Attorney General's Office. In the agreement signed between Attorney General Blanca Nelida Colan Maguino and Diez Canseco, the two organizations pledged to cooperate for one year on all matters pertaining to the pacification of the country and the protection of human rights. For this purpose, they will exchange all the information they receive regarding human rights violations, whether they are perpetrated by the police and military forces or terrorists. They also pledged to inform each other of disappearances. The complaints must be filed by trustworthy individuals, preferably relatives. The agreement was signed at the conference hall of the Attorney General's Office. Attending the ceremony were representatives of the top military chiefs, supreme and higher district attorneys, and other personalities.

[Begin recording] [Colan] The Attorney General's Office, together with you, Mr. Diez Canseco, has pledged to oversee the total defense of human rights in Peru. Peruvians will be proud to bring about the country's pacification, as this task is everyone's responsibility. The entire world will know Peruvians respect human rights here and everywhere.

[Diez Canseco] The signing of the agreement between the Attorney General's Office and the National Council for Peace constitutes a very important step in what will henceforth be the mutual cooperation between the two to enforce human rights in Peru. I think all provisions and actions by people can be improved. It is clear we have gone from a phase where the courts were completely lax in treating terrorism to a phase of extreme severity. I think it would be interesting to have an analysis of the current legislation and the conditions under which the judges are functioning. [end recording]

Court Rejects Petition for Writ of Amparo of Missing People

PY1903225293 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpts] The judicial branch, which is facing "a reorganization and moralization process" by the government, yesterday issued an unprecedented resolution: It rejected a petition for a writ of amparo over the disappearance of 10 people, arguing that it has no evidence that those individuals had existed previously.

Relatives of nine students and a professor at La Cantuta University, captured on 18 July by military forces, rejected and protested the weird resolution issued by the Superior Court of Lima's Sixth Penal Court, which dismissed the petition for a writ of amparo under the pretext that the "pre-existence" of the missing people has not been verified.

The incredible resolution by the judicial authorities has caused indignation and surprise among relatives, as well as among several lawyers and judges who have independent ideas and behavior.

Representatives of human rights defense organizations have stated that they will demand a thorough investigation to definitely clear up this boisterous aggression against the existence of 10 people.

Lawyers for the missing people voiced assurances that they submitted in due time the respective birth certificates and witness reports on the arrest of their clients and their identifications. [passage omitted]

Students and professors were powerless witnesses to events that took place early that morning. A few hours later they reported to the dean's office, police stations, and the news media.

According to their reports, both students and the professor were properly registered at the La Cantuta University Well-being Office; that is, their legal situation was perfectly normal and verifiable. [passage omitted]

In view of the pressures, General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, admitted the military intervention headed by General Luis Salazar Monroe, chief of the 2d Military Region. [passage omitted]

Budget Committee Said Concealing 'Several' Problems

PY1903222793 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 4 Mar 93 pp 24, 25

[From the "Under Current" column]

[Text] Not only has the Democratic Constituent Congress Budget Committee not received the complete documents for the 1992 and 1993 national budget yet but it also is concealing several problems.

One of them is that the 1993 budget, which amounts to 10.813 million new soles, or $5.2 billion, maintains a flimsy fiscal balance because approximately $900 million of the $2.5 billion earmarked to pay the foreign debt will have to be exclusively financed by the national Treasury (while the remaining $1.6 billion will have to be raised by contracting new debts abroad). What will happen if the Revenue Office collects less resources than expected or if, to the contrary, the government is unable to obtain $1.6 billion to repay the foreign debt? There would be no other solution than to issue money without backing.

Another negative characteristic of this budget is that about 80 percent of it is concentrated in five sectors: Economy Ministry (26.86 percent), presidency of the Council of Ministers (12.76 percent), Ministry of the Presidency (12.30 percent), Defense Ministry (9.53 percent), and Interior Ministry (8.97 percent).

Instead, the allocations for the essential ministries are really small: Health Ministry (3.53 percent), Agriculture Ministry (1.49 percent), Justice (0.94 percent), and Attorney General's Office (0.31 percent). It is true that the Foncodes [National Compensation and Social Development Fund] will absorb 40 percent of the allocation for the Ministry of the Presidency, but the allocation for such a small agency with few personnel and specific tasks—such as the distribution on weekends of computers, bicycles, jogging suits, and calendars by the chief of state—does not cease to surprise Humberto Campodonico, from the Desco [Center for Development Studies and Promotion].

Overall, the MEF [Economy and Finance Ministry] is the major beneficiary of this distribution. Government sources assert that 65 percent of its allocation will be transferred to the Ministries of Health, Education, and again, the Presidency. According to Campodonico, however, the fact that the MEF controls the resources of other ministries gives it a discretional power that could be used arbitrarily in case they do not dance to the same tune.

Colombian Foreign Minister Views Garcia, Drug Trafficking

PY1903233993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Mar 93 pp A6, A7

[Text] EXPRESO interviewed Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, a former bank executive, in her hotel in Lima where she stayed during the ministerial conference on the South Pacific. The subjects she discussed were: drug trafficking and, of course, Alan Garcia. The following are her interesting opinions that include her view that, according to the current international treaties, Alan Garcia is entitled to speak in Colombia about domestic Peruvian political issues. (Some diplomatic experts consulted by EXPRESO have said, however, that the international practice on the right of asylum forbids the individual enjoying asylum to comment on the domestic political issues of his country of origin.)

[EXPRESO] Regarding the case of former President Alan Garcia who sought asylum in Colombia, the Peruvian public feels that Garcia should respect the laws of asylum. Has the Colombian Government discussed aspects of this delicate matter with Garcia?

[Sanin] Colombia has a tradition of asylum that Peru knows better than anyone. For us it is a valid and very important institution. The problem is that asylum treaties are often not well known; the person who is given asylum has some restrictions regarding the domestic political issues of the country that has given him asylum. Obviously, violence cannot be incited. We are sure that former President Alan Garcia would never want to adopt such an attitude.

[EXPRESO] Then, according to the rules of asylum and in your opinion, can former President Garcia comment in Colombia about Peruvian domestic political issues?

[Sanin] While this matter is not permitted under Colombian law under current treaties—such as that between Peru and Colombia—it is allowed. There are no restrictions in this field as long as, obviously, he does not incite anyone to violence or engage in barbaric actions. When we decided to give him asylum, we deeply studied the treaties we signed and our tradition in the subject.

[EXPRESO] Has there been a change in Colombian drug enforcement policy following the escape of Pablo Escobar?

[Sanin] I do not think so. The different Colombian governments have openly faced the drug-trafficking problems, clearly aware that it is not a Colombian problem. It is an international problem that the world must face. We, through the National Constituent

Assembly have strengthened justice; we have created new institutions—the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Public Defender's Office—that are transforming the country. We also reinforced the Attorney General's Office and created a policy of surrender to the courts, which enables criminals, through their confession, to receive more benign treatment. Colombia is living with the problem of narcoterrorism as well as that of guerrilla violence.

[EXPRESO] Is the policy that led to the negotiations with Pablo Escobar the same than the current one? From outside it seems different.

[Sanin] They committed abuses and corrupted people to be kings in prison. Obviously, the government must react with greater controls and supervision. The policy of surrendering to the courts continues to be valid, and every day narcoterrorists and drug traffickers surrender. The failure was not in the policy but in the prison system. We had to review it, and we now have controls and systems to prevent that from happening again.

[EXPRESO] Is the progress you attained mainly in the field of the legal institutions?

[Sanin] We have carried out a deep reform, beginning with the salary level of the judges, which was not in keeping with their dignity. We are now defeating impunity daily. We must tell the world that we have to divert resources into infrastructure, education, and development to face drug trafficking.

We are carrying out a war that is not just ours; it is a world war and we are assuming the costs. Obviously, we are receiving cooperation from the United States and the EC, which grants our products zero tariff status. I think, however, that the world must respond with greater solidarity, cooperation, education, and prevention. If our drug traffickers did not find it possible to invest their resources; if they were not easily received in other countries; if they could not obtain weapons; if the chemical precursors were not so easy to buy, what would they do?

[EXPRESO] Was President Gaviria referring to this when not long ago he said Colombia feels alone in the fight against drug trafficking?

[Sanin] We need a much more deep international commitment because Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia cannot do it alone.

[EXPRESO] Of course there is a limited knowledge of the aspects of the problem: precursors and money laundering. Of one thing we are sure: In Peru there are drug-trafficking planes in the Huallaga Valley that are owned by Colombian chiefs.

[Sanin] That has not been proven. There are chiefs everywhere who not only trade in cocaine. The people who launder their money abroad are also chiefs, as well as those who supply raw materials and precursors and who are accomplices of the Mafia in our countries.

We have confiscated more than 70 tons of cocaine, destroyed 25,000 hectares of poppy plantations, frozen drug resources, and confiscated property of drug traffickers in large amounts. But we are sure that their base is not just in Colombia.

If investment paradises for drug-trafficking resources continue to exist abroad, it will be very difficult for us to win the war.

[EXPRESO] Do you think that the Colombian Constitution will be amended to again allow the extradition of drug traffickers?

[Sanin] We trust our justice. We think we are capable of having an appropriate legal system to judge criminals. Our courts are trying, I would say, hundreds of criminals and the policy of surrender to the courts is succeeding.

The escape of Pablo Escobar has been a great failure about which everyone knows, but with the rest of the criminals we have had positive results.

There is also a concrete reality in Colombia: Our economy is solid; we are growing in all industrial fields and in commerce; we have benefited from the economic opening. No Colombian industries have been harmed. We could almost say that no company has gone bankrupt in the country since the economic opening. Our exports have increased. Last year we only grew 3 percent, but during the 1980's we grew at an average of 4.5 percent. We were the only country in which the real salary of workers increased; we were the only country in Latin America that did not have to renegotiate its debt.

[EXPRESO] The economy has been well administered in the past few years.

[Sanin] We are not just changing our macroeconomic situation; the standard of living of the people is improving. That is the interesting and—I would say—important part of what is happening in Colombia. For the first time the people are expressing their solidarity with peace and progress. All this violence has affected our people so much, and at last we can observe a solidarity that allows us to think of peace in the future.

[EXPRESO] Thank you.

Japan To Donate $7 Million for Buildings Modernization

PA2203200193 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Report by Eduardo Lindo Collantes from the Congress]

[Text] Japan will donate $7 million to Peru, which will be used to refurbish the Congress, Central Reserve Bank, and Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, as well as to protect the environment, Constituent Democratic Congress [CCD] President Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka announced. Yoshiyama met with the former Japanese

Finance Minister Ruteno Hashimoto, who told Yoshiyama about the nonreimbursable loan to Peru.

[Begin Yoshiyama recording] The $7 million will be used as follows: $2 million will be spent in modernizing this building, which we have already started; $2 million to institutions in charge of protecting the environment, something very important to us; and $3 million to modernize financial buildings, such as the Central Reserve Bank and the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance. Hasimoto stated that this is a donation from the Japanese Government. We asked him to lift the restrictions on Japanese tourism to Peru, just as the ban on Japanese businessmen from investing in Peru has been lifted. There is a standing recommendation by the Japanese Government that Japanese tourists visiting Peru should be extremely careful. [end recording]

Venezuela

Colombian Foreign Minister on Trade Investments

PA1803191893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Melissa Soto]

[Text] During a visit to the Colombian Embassy in Venezuela, Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada said trade investments between both countries total $1.1 billion, which means that the integration process is progressing positively.

Sanin mentioned aspects uniting the two countries, such as the integration process. She announced that a joint document being drafted with the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry will be ready within the next few days. The document outlines the advancements made so far on the subject of integration, which encompasses all sectors of society.

Sanin added that future plans include a Latin American Free Trade integration front. She mentioned the main points of the integration process with the United States.

[Begin Sanin recording] Both countries—I will refer to Colombia's position—have expressed satisfaction over the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States. All Latin American countries are currently signing subregional and regional free trade agreements with the idea of signing a Latin American Free Trade Agreement in the future. We are preparing for a hemispheric free trade zone. Our dream, which hopefuly will become a reality, is to have a free trade zone from Alaska to Argentina by the year 2000, which would be the largest in the world. [end recording]

Sanin reiterated her invitation to the Venezuelan justice minister to meet with his Colombian counterpart to reach an agreement on repatriating prisoners from both countries.

Japan Facilitates 2 Loans for Petroleum Industries

PA1803185993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] On 17 March, Jutaro Sakamoto, Japanese ambassador to Venezuela, expressed his country's full confidence in Venezuela as a country with good investment opportunities by facilitating two loans for the development of joint projects in the petroleum and petrochemical industries.

The loans, which total $130 million, approximately 11 billion bolivares, were signed on 17 March by Japan's Export Import Bank at Venezuelan Petroleum Enterprise [Petroven].

Sakamoto said Venezuela has a good future and is viewed as a country with good economic prospects; therefore, he added, Japan will continue to invest in Venezuela.

The loan granted to Venezuela by Japan's Export Import Bank on 17 March was the second in two days. An $80-million credit agreement was signed in the United States on 16 March for the production of ethanol.

[Begin Sakamoto recording] Japan's Export Import Bank has granted Venezuela more than $130 million in two days. This means that Japan's Export Import Bank and the Japanese Government view Venezuela as a country with long-term investment opportunities. According to the U.S. OIL AND GAS magazine, only six countries in the world will be producing petroleum by the beginning of the 22nd century. In other words, 110 years from now, only six countries in the world will have petroleum, and Venezuela is number one on the list. [end recording]

The credit conditions consists of 6 percent interest over U.S. Treasury note interest rates, with a two-year grace period.

[Begin Petroven Director Gustavo Roosen recording] Credits were basically granted for petrochemical industries, where Japanese equipment and material are very competitive. Most of the inventory and materials required for the oil industry are purchased in the United States or Venezuela. Through this line of credit, we are seeking financial support to acquire material for the national petrochemical industries. [end recording]

Roosen said that as a result of the increase in oil prices, the country will receive $11 billion, which will increase the Venezuelan Central Bank reserves.